

1. Information on the COVID-19 vaccination

Tochigi City Hall plans to send "vaccination tickets" necessary for vaccination to people over 16 years old residents.

Once you receive the "vaccination ticket", please make a vaccination reservation. Priority will be given to elderly people aged 65 and over.

Please keep in mind, the timing of vaccination may be delayed depending on the state of preparation.

Vaccinations can be received either as a group at a health center or individually at a medical institution.

We will inform you about the reservation method and the reservation start time as soon as we have more information.

In Japan, the Pfizer vaccine will be used.

According to overseas studies, if the vaccine is given twice at intervals of 3 weeks, it has been shown to be highly effective in preventing COVID-19 cases.

However, like other vaccinations, there may be side effects such as pain at the site of vaccination, headaches, pain in joints and muscles, fatigue, chills, and a fever. Most side effects have been reported to subside within a few hours to a few days.

A serious side effect called "anaphylaxis" would only occur very rarely.

Vaccination is not mandatory. You can research both the benefits and the potential risks and decide for yourself. If you have a chronic illness or allergies, or if you are worried about anything related to vaccination, we recommend that you consult with a doctor.

2. About the opening of designated My Number Card services

We will open dedicated services for the My Number Card from May on Sundays.

You will be able to apply and receive your My Number Card, update or reset your PIN, and process documents for moving in or out of the city.

If you live in Tochigi City, please use the Citizen's Life Section of the main office. It is open from 8:30 am until noon on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month.

If you live in the Ohira, Fujioka, Tsuga, Nishikata, or Iwafune areas, please use the Community Development Section of the general branch office in your area. It is open from 8:30 am until noon on the second Sunday of every month.

If you want to use this service, you have to make a reservation by phone.

Reservations will be accepted from the first day two months prior and will be closed as soon as capacity is reached. However, reservations for May and June will start on April 20th.

If you wish to cancel your reservation, please contact us by noon on Friday, at least two days before the day of your appointment.

The phone number for reservations in Tochigi City is 0282-11-2126.

For the Ohira area, it is 0282-43-9209.

For the Fujioka area, it is 0282-62-0903.

For the Tsuga area, it is 0282-29-1102.

For the Nishikata area, it is 0282-92-0306.

For the Iwafune area, it is 0282-55-7754.

We accept reservations from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm on weekdays.

3. About the change of available dates of city hall's additional services

At Tochigi City Hall, we are extending the opening hours of frequently used services with the aim of improving the convenience for our citizens.

Please note that the available days of the week will change starting from April this year.

Opening times will be extended from 5:15 pm to 7:00 pm for the Citizen's Life Section, Insurance and Pension section, Tax Affairs Section, and Tax Collection Section for three days a week on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

The opening times for the regional development section of the general branch office in Ohira, Fujioka, Tsuga, Nishikata, and Iwafune will be extended from 5:15 pm to 7:00 pm on Wednesdays.

However, the Tsuga General Branch will only be open on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays.

Additionally, the Nishikata General Branch requires reservations, so please call 0282-92-0306 to make a reservation before you go.

4. About the prevention of further spread of COVID-19

The weather is getting warmer, the cherry blossoms are blooming, and everyone is excited to get out and go places. However, we must keep in mind that new COVID-19 cases are still occurring.

Experts say that the number of the highly infectious "mutant viruses" will probably continue to increase.

In order to prevent the spread of new cases, it is important to continue to follow the basic infection control measures such as wearing a mask, through hand washing, avoiding crowds, ventilating rooms, keeping any gathering small and short, refraining from shouting and keeping conversations as quiet as possible.

From the existing data, we know behaviors and situations that lead to a high risk of infection. Please pay close attention to these "five situations" where the risk of infection seems to increase:

- 1) parties with food and alcohol.
- 2) gatherings with a large group of people of 5 or more eating and drinking alcohol for an extended period of time.
- 3) conversations without a mask.
- 4) communal living in small spaces.
- 5) at work, especially during breaks as many cases of infection have been confirmed in break rooms, smoking areas, and changing rooms.

Each person's attention to detail helps prevent the spread of new cases.

Thank you for your cooperation.