

1. The “Tochigi City’s Disaster Multilingual Support Center” is to be in operation!

Tochigi City International Center (or, TIC for short) is to set up Disaster Multilingual Support Center to deal with emergencies with the intention of helping foreign residents.

Disaster Multilingual Support Center is located in Kyokuto Tochigi Kuranomachi Gakushu-kan. People registered in the translator-bank of TIC will translate the information from Tochigi City Disaster Headquarters into several languages and send out the information.

In addition to that, if you need professional advice, we will act as a mediator between you and the city departments in charge.

Besides, Kyokuto Tochigi Kuranomachi Gakushu-kan, which holds Disaster Multilingual Support Center, is one of the priority shelters in the city. So, we would like foreign residents to take refuge from the emergencies in Kyokuto Tochigi Kuranomachi Gakushu-kan.

You can make use of our evacuation center no matter where you live now. Not only water, food, and household goods, but also reassuring living space, power sources, and essential information from the city are provided.

Please prepare easy access to Kyokuto Tochigi Kuranomachi Gakushu-kan during normal times.

2. Details concerning the omicron variant of COVID-19

We are afraid that the omicron coronavirus variant is now spreading rapidly.

The early symptoms of the omicron variant of COVID-19 is just like those of a cold, such as a high fever of 37.5 °C or higher, coughs, weariness of your whole body, sore throats, runny noses, and stuffy noses. In fact, some people with Coronavirus were asymptomatic or without symptoms.

It is advisable for you to see your family doctor or visit the nearest medical institutions when you say to yourself, “Am I, by any chance, suffering from COVID-19?”

If you want to talk in a foreign language other than Japanese, please call the COVID-19 Hotline at 028-678-8282. It’s open 24 hours a day.

3. About COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots (3rd Dose)

The Japanese government decided to shorten the interval of vaccinations in order to take all possible measures against COVID-19 infection. You will now be able to receive booster shots not 8 months in principle but 7 months after the date of the 2nd dose. And on and from February 1, 2022, “Vaccination Vouchers” will be sent to elderly people over 65 years old, and they will be able to receive the very booster shots 7 months after the date of the 2nd dose.

If you are 64 years old or younger, you will begin to receive a “Vaccination Voucher” for the booster shot as the 8th month draws near respectively. Then, it’s your turn.

The vaccines to be used this time are Pfizer or Takeda/Moderna regardless of the first and the second doses. While the same amount of Pfizer vaccine as the last dose will be inoculated, the half amount of Takeda/Moderna will be shot this time.

You are supposed to get almost the same side effects from COVID vaccine as were the cases with the 1st and the 2nd doses. But it is reported that much fewer people get infected or have a serious condition, if vaccinated.

It is also reported that it is safe to get a shot of Moderna after the Pfizer shots and that your bodies develop antibodies greatly against the virus.

As the Japanese government has decided to supply Takeda/Moderna vaccine first, Tochigi City will start with Takeda/Moderna vaccine for both group and individual vaccinations.

According to the supplying schedule of the Japanese government, vaccination of Pfizer is expected to start after the middle of February.

Those foreign residents in Tochigi City, who have completed their primary vaccination (2 doses) in other municipalities or in foreign countries have to apply to your municipality in order to receive a “Vaccination Voucher” for the shot.

You can get over-the-counter service at Tochigi City Health and Welfare Center, Tochigi City Hall Satellite Department, and the city government offices in Ohira, Fujioka, Tsuga, Nishikata, and Iwafune. For further in detail, please call Tochigi City COVID Vaccine Call Center at 0282-21-2416.