

## 1. About receiving your tax notice

In May, taxes on your property are due.

If you own a car, you will receive a tax notice for automobile and light automobile tax. As soon as you receive the envelope, please check the documents inside.

The automobile tax must be paid to Tochigi Prefecture by everyone who owns a car as of April 1 every year. The light motor vehicle tax must be paid to Tochigi City by anyone who owns a motorcycle or light motor vehicle.

The deadline for tax payment is May 31. Please take the tax notice in the envelope to a convenience store, bank, or post office and pay it by the due date.

In addition, those who own land or houses in Tochigi City as of January 1 will receive a tax notice for fixed property and city planning tax.

Fixed property tax is levied on the land and houses you own. City planning tax is used for city planning and land readjustment. These are taxes to be paid to Tochigi City. Please be sure to pay your taxes on time.

## 2. Establishment of Tochigi Prefecture Bicycle Ordinance

There are many bicycle accidents that are occurring in Tochigi Prefecture. Therefore, Tochigi Prefecture enacted the "Tochigi Bicycle Ordinance" to promote the safe use of bicycles and protect victims of accidents. This ordinance is applicable to all bicycle users in Tochigi Prefecture.

From July 1, 2022, it will be mandatory to have bicycle liability and other types of insurance due to the rise in cases of serious accidents involving bicycles across the country.

Insurance is generally available at bicycle stores in the city. The bicycle store will affix a TS mark to your bicycle after inspecting and servicing it which is a sign that you have insurance. The insurance is valid for one year. The insurance fee varies depending on the amount of coverage, but the TS Mark is available in blue and red. The limit of coverage is 100 million yen.

In addition, from April 1, it is mandatory to wear a helmet and inspect and maintain your bicycles. About 60% of people who die in bicycle accidents have suffered head injuries. People of all ages, not just children, should wear helmets as often as possible. Helmets can be purchased at bicycle stores, home centers, sporting goods stores, and large supermarkets.

Finally, do not ride a bicycle while using a cell phone, riding with other people on the bike, or holding an umbrella.

## 3. About COVID-19

The number of new cases of COVID which has been gradually decreasing since March, has recently begun to rise again throughout Japan. It's possible that the number of newly infected people will further increase due to people traveling during the holidays in May.

In Tochigi City, vaccination tickets for the third vaccination are sent to those who have been vaccinated at least six months ago for the first and second vaccinations. Those who have received vaccination tickets and wish to be vaccinated should apply for the group vaccination at designated locations in the city or at a medical institution.

Those who received the second vaccine with a vaccine ticket issued by another municipality or those who received the vaccine overseas and moved to Tochigi City need to apply again to have the third vaccine ticket sent to you. If you have lost your vaccination ticket, it can be reissued.

For reservations or inquiries about vaccinations, please call the Tochigi City COVID-19 Vaccination Call Center at 0282-21-2418.