

1. Notice from the Tochigi Tax Office

In Japan, as a general rule, the company you work for pays withholding tax every time they pay your salary, and you receive a year-end tax adjustment at the end of the fiscal year.

If you are financially supporting family members living abroad, a notice must be submitted to the company that pays you your salary to let them know that you are sending money for living and educational expenses.

If these deduction items are not reflected in the tax calculation for the company's year-end filings you can do so yourself on your final tax return.

The tax return filing period for 2023 is from February 16 to March 15. The venue is the Tochigi Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the main hall.

Foreign nationals filing an income tax return will need to submit a withholding tax certificate, a copy of their residence card, a letter of confirmation regarding their form of residence, and a copy of their bankbook.

In addition, documents related to relatives and remittance indicating that you have dependents outside of Japan are required. If these documents are written in a foreign language, a translation must also be submitted.

To enter the tax return venue, you will need an admission ticket distributed at the venue on the day of the event or an admission ticket obtained in advance from the official National Tax Agency LINE account.

Please wear a mask when coming to the venue.

2. Measures to prevent infection in winter

In the event of a simultaneous outbreak of COVID and influenza this winter, outpatient fever clinics and emergency medical services are expected to be strained.

In order to protect the health of yourself and those close to you, please make preparations during normal times.

First of all, the most important thing is to prevent the spread of viruses.

Once again, take basic infection control measures such as avoiding contact with others, disinfecting your hands, wearing a mask when talking, and ventilating the room when indoors.

Also, please consider getting an Omicron strain-compatible vaccine and/or the influenza vaccine.

In addition, if you develop a fever or other symptoms, you may not be able to visit an outpatient fever clinic immediately. Be sure to stockpile supplies and check with medical institutions and consultation centers in case of illness.

Things to prepare include a thermometer, a 5- to 7-day supply of food, necessary medicines, and antigen qualitative test kits. It is also necessary to confirm where to consult in case of emergency.

If you develop a fever or other symptoms, call the 24-hour consultation center for medical consultation and vaccines at 0570-052-092. If you do not understand Japanese, call the "Tochigi Consultation Support Center for Foreign Residents" at 028-678-8282, which is available 24 hours a day in 20 different languages.

Please start planning for emergency situations now.

3. About the Japanese language class "Uzumare"

The Tochigi International Association's Japanese language program "Uzumare" has three classes: Tochigi Chuo Class, Ohira Class, and the Introductory Class.

Tochigi Chuo Class and Ohira Class are beginner level classes where foreign residents learn words and phrases commonly used in everyday life situations and aim to be able to speak more freely about their feelings and what they want to express.

The Tochigi Chuo Class meets four times a month on Wednesdays from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at Kyokuto Tochigi Kura-no-Machi Rakushukan.

The Ohira Class is held on the first and third Saturdays of the month from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the Ohira Community Center in Ohira-cho.

The introductory class consists of 12 lessons per term, and is designed for people who do not know any Japanese at all, to learn how to write hiragana and katakana, simple greetings, etc. The class is held every Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Kyokuto Tochigi Kura no Machi Rakushukan.

If you would like to join the Japanese class, please contact the Tochigi International Association at 0282-25-3792. Or you may go directly to the venue on the day of the Japanese class.

Let's enjoy learning Japanese together!