

1. Extended office openings from April 2023

Tochigi City has been extending the opening hours of services that are frequently used. From April, availabilities will change to every Wednesday at the City Hall main building and the second Wednesday of the month at each general city branch office. In addition, at the Nishikata General Branch Office, services will be available without the need for reservations.

Services at the following sections will be available: Citizen's Life Division, Insurance and Pension Division, Tax Division, and Community Development Promotion Division of each general city branch office.

The Citizen's Affairs Division and the Community Development Promotion Division will be able to provide services such as the issuance of copies of resident registers, abstracts of family registers, acceptance of resident change notifications, and the issuance of my number cards.

The Insurance and Pension Division and the Community Development Promotion Division are in charge of acquiring and canceling National Health Insurance status.

The Taxation Division and the Community Development Promotion Division are responsible for issuing tax payment certificates, income certificates, taxation certificates, and tax exemption certificates. However, payment of municipal taxes and reissuance of payment slips cannot be handled here.

The hours of operation are from 5:15 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Please come visit the office as needed.

2. Notice of National Pension Insurance Premiums

National Pension Insurance premiums are revised every fiscal year. The monthly premium for 2023 is 16,520 yen. Those who pay in cash will receive a payment slip from the Japan Pension Service in early April. Monthly premiums should be paid by the last day of the following month.

Those who are between 20 and 60 years old, reside in Japan and have a resident card are obliged to join the National Pension Plan, even if they are a foreign nationals.

Those who have paid the National Pension for more than 10 years will be paid a pension. If you return to your country in the middle of the year, you can apply for a lump-sum withdrawal payment, which will return a certain amount of money depending on how long you have paid the premiums.

In addition, if you are a student and your income is below a certain level, you can defer payment of the National Pension Insurance premiums upon application. This also applies to international students.

Those who wish to apply should bring either the payment slip sent by the Japan Pension Service that shows your basic pension number or your My Number card as well as either your student ID card or certificate of enrollment, and apply at the counter of the Insurance and Pension Division at City Hall's main building.

For those who were approved for the special exception for student payment in the 2022 academic year and will continue to study in the 2023 academic year, the Japan Pension Service will send a postcard-style application form for the special exception for student payment in early April, so you do not need to apply at the counter if you return the form.

3. Notice from Tochigi Public Works Office

Road improvement work is underway along the Tochigi Sano-Line, a prefectural road in Yamato-chou, Tochigi City, in conjunction with the installation of utility poles. In the construction area which spans 180 meters from the Yamato-chou intersection and includes the intersection of Ashikaga Bank and Starbucks up to Kourai Bridge, roads will be restricted to alternating one-way traffic from the end of March 2023.

Since this is a multi-year construction project, traffic restrictions will be in place for a long period of time, and we apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

In addition, in accordance with the disaster restoration assistance project for Nagano River, bridge replacement work will be carried out at the Ryomei Bridge on City Road No. 2098 in the Enomoto district of Ohira-machi, Tochigi City.

The construction work is scheduled to last about three years, from April 2023 to March 2026, during which time the bridge will be closed to all traffic throughout the day. Vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians will all be blocked off, so please make a detour.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause to local residents and users of the Ryomei Bridge, and ask for your understanding and cooperation.