

1. Regular and light automobile tax

There is a tax for those who own a car on April 1st every year. Owners of cars with an exhaust system greater than 660 cc must pay the regular automobile tax, and those with motorcycles and cars with 660 cc or less must pay the light automatic vehicle tax.

In May, a form that indicates how much automobile tax should be paid will be sent to each car owner. The amount of tax to be paid is determined by the type of car as well as other factors.

This year, the deadline for payment is May 31 so please pay by the due date.

If you are unable to pay the automobile tax by the deadline, please contact the Tochigi Prefectural Taxation Office. If you are unable to pay the light automobile tax, please contact the Taxation Section of City Hall.

2. Property and city planning tax

Those who own depreciable assets on January 1 of each year, such as land, houses, machinery and tools used for work must pay property tax.

In May, a form with the amount of tax due will be sent out by mail from City Hall. Property tax can be paid in full at one time or in four installments over a year. The deadline for payment of the first installment for all periods is May 31 so please pay by the due date.

In addition, a QR code for the local taxation system is printed on tax notices issued in the fiscal year 2023 for property tax and light motor vehicle tax. By using this QR code, payments can be made in various ways, such as with a smartphone payment application, credit card, or internet banking. If you need a receipt, please make your payment at City Hall, a convenience store or financial institution.

3. Wearing a bicycle helmet

As of April 1, 2023, traffic laws have been updated to encourage all bicyclists to wear helmets. There is no penalty for not doing so but cyclists must now make an effort to remember to put on a helmet.

According to the Metropolitan Police Department, approximately 60% of those who died in traffic accidents in the past while riding bicycles suffered fatal head injuries, and the fatality rate for those who were not wearing helmets in traffic accidents while riding bicycles was approximately 2.1 times higher.

When buying a helmet, choose a helmet with the "SG mark," which certifies that it is as safe as possible. Helmets can be purchased at bicycle specialty stores and home centers.

To significantly reduce the damage caused by accidents, please always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle.

4. About COVID-19

On May 8, COVID-19 will be classified as a "Class 5 infectious disease" under the Infectious Disease Control Law. Once the status is changed to a category 5 infectious disease, the government will no longer be able to declare a state of emergency or impose other restrictions on activities.

A wide range of medical institutions will be able to handle the disease, in addition to designated medical institutions for infectious diseases and outpatient fever clinics. Medical expenses for hospitalization and tests, which used to be fully covered by public funds, will now be partially covered by self-pay. In addition, the government will no longer report the number of cases in a daily report.

The wearing of masks will also be left to the discretion of the individual and no one will be forced to do so against their will. However, wearing a mask is an effective measure to protect oneself from infection when visiting a medical institution, institutions with elderly people, or when riding a crowded train or bus.

The government will no longer require basic infection control measures such as hand sanitization, ventilation, and avoidance of crowded areas. They will now only provide information to help individuals and businesses make well-informed decisions.

Anyone who wishes to do so will still be able to receive a COVID vaccination this year without having to pay for it themselves. Vaccinations are scheduled to begin again in September so please consider receiving one.