

## 1. “threeR (さんあーる)” Waste Sorting App Now Available Online

The waste sorting app “threeR” is now available online.

“threeR” is a mobile app that lets you easily search how to sort and dispose of your garbage. It also sends notifications about collection days.

The app is available not only in Japanese, but also in English, Simplified Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish, and Nepali. Please take advantage of this service.

And now, as of June 2nd, you can also use “threeR” through your internet browser. It offers convenient features such as the garbage and resource collection calendar, how to sort and dispose of different items, a quick-sorting reference chart, and important notices from the city. Please make full use of it.

In addition, the Tochigi City Hall and Tochigi International Center websites provide information about garbage sorting and disposal in multiple languages, including English, Simplified Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish, and Nepali.

On the website, you can check how to sort and dispose of garbage, the collection calendar, and information about the “San-Aru” app.

We encourage everyone to check it out.

## **2. Facility Tours for Nursery and Childcare Enrollment in Fiscal Year 2026**

Facility tours will be held for parents and guardians who wish to enroll their children in nursery schools, certified child centers, or small-scale childcare facilities in fiscal year 2026.

Please take this opportunity to participate.

Enrollment applications are scheduled to begin in September.  
More details will be announced on the city's website and during the tours.

For public nursery schools—Kurano-machi, Otsuka, Hako-no-mori, Ohira Nishi, Ohira Minami No.1, Fujioka Heartland, Tsuga Yotsuba, and Iwafune—tours will be held on Wednesday, July 23rd, with reception starting at 1:30 PM.

Tours for private nursery schools, certified child centers, and small-scale childcare facilities are scheduled individually by each facility, so please check the Tochigi City website for details.

When attending a tour, please be sure to bring indoor shoes or slippers and writing materials.

### 3. Priority Emergency Shelters During Disasters

To ensure quick evacuation during disasters, Tochigi City has designated 23 locations as “priority emergency shelters” that will be opened immediately.

Among them, Ohira Community Center has been changed to Ohira Junior High School as of April this year, because the gymnasium is no longer available for use.

When a priority emergency shelter is opened, you will be informed through emergency alert messages sent automatically to mobile phones in the city, and you can also obtain information through the Tochigi City website.

Tochigi City has two types of designated emergency locations: “Evacuation Sites” (hinan basho) and “Evacuation Shelters” (hinanjo).

Do you know the difference?

- An Evacuation Site is a temporary location to flee to when there is immediate danger.
- An Evacuation Shelter is a place where you can live for a period of time if your home is damaged and no longer livable after a disaster.

Sometimes people confuse these terms, as “evacuation shelter” or “a place to run to” is often used in daily language to refer to both.

Let’s take the time to understand the difference between the two.

When going to an Evacuation Site for emergency evacuation, you must bring your own food and drinks—this is a basic rule.

We are now entering the season of heavy rain and typhoons.

Earthquakes can also happen at any time.

To avoid confusion during emergencies, please check in advance where your nearest evacuation sites are.

#### 4. “Chokotto Suzumidokoro” Cool Spots to Prevent Heatstroke

To help prevent heatstroke, Tochigi City has designated certain facilities as “Chokotto Suzumidokoro,” or “Cool-Off Spots,” where people can easily stop by and cool down.

Also, when the national government issues a Heatstroke Emergency Alert, the city will open designated Cooling Shelters where people can take refuge from dangerous heat.

There are 128 designated facilities in the city.

Public facilities include: the main Tochigi City Hall, branch offices in Ohira, Fujioka, Tsuga, Nishikata, and Iwafune, libraries, and local health and welfare centers.

Private facilities include: Aeon, Torisen, York Benimaru, Welcia, FamilyMart, post offices, and more.

A full list of available facilities can be found on the Tochigi City website or in a printed leaflet.

These leaflets are available at City Hall, branch offices, and community centers.

The program runs through October 22nd.

Please follow the rules of each facility and make good use of the “Cool-Off Spots” to protect yourself from heatstroke.