

1. About the National Census

The National Census will take place on October 1, 2025.

It counts everyone living in Japan, along with details such as family structure, housing type, age, gender, and employment. This census is carried out every five years and is considered the most important survey in Japan.

The census includes all residents of Japan, regardless of nationality. This means foreign residents are also required to take part. The survey covers the place where you have been living for at least three months, or where you plan to live for three months or more.

All information you provide is used only for statistics. Results are compiled in a way that does not identify individuals. Your answers will not be shared with the police or immigration authorities.

Because the census is conducted under the Statistics Law, answering the census is mandatory. Refusing to respond, or giving false information, may result in a fine.

From late September, census takers will visit households to deliver the census materials.

You can respond online using a computer or smartphone. If you do not complete the census online, you can fill out the paper questionnaire and return it by mail. If needed, a census taker can also collect it from you.

Online responses are available in seven languages: English, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Spanish, and Portuguese.

Paper questionnaires can be answered using a translated guide in 28 languages.

The online response period is from September 20 to October 8.

The paper questionnaire period is from October 1 to October 8.

We ask for your cooperation in completing the census.

2. About the Expiration of Digital Certificates

Do you have a My Number Health Insurance Card, also called a Myna Hokensho? This is a My Number Card registered for use as a health insurance card at hospitals and pharmacies. At reception, you place the card on a face-recognition card reader.

When you use it, you enter a 4-digit PIN. This is part of a digital certificate that proves the person logging in is really you.

This digital certificate has an expiration date. Regardless of age, it expires on your fifth birthday after the issue date. You must renew it before that time.

Two to three months before it expires, you will receive a notification by mail. Please bring both the notification letter and your My Number Card to the Tochigi City Hall main building or one of the branch offices to renew it.

For up to three months after expiration, you can still use your card as a health insurance card. But after that period, it will no longer work.

3. Tochigi City Special Allowance for Large Families

To support families raising three or more children—especially those affected by rising food and living costs—Tochigi City will provide a special allowance.

The payment is 10,000 yen per child, starting from the third child. This allowance will be provided once only.

Eligible children are those born between April 2, 2002, and February 28, 2026.

Applicants must be registered as residents of Tochigi City.

If, as of March 31, 2025, your family was already registered in the Child Allowance system with three or more eligible children, you do not need to apply.

The payment will be automatically deposited into the account registered for your Child Allowance by the end of September. Notifications for these families were sent out on August 13.

If you are not automatically eligible, you will need to apply. Please contact the Child Rearing General Affairs Division at Tochigi City Hall for details.