

1. Implementation of the Watarase Retarding Basin Reed Burning

At the Watarase Retarding Basin in Fujioka Town, controlled reed burning will be carried out across the entire basin for the purposes of conserving the reed field environment where reed grass grows, pest control, and fire prevention. This traditional event involves burning dried reeds to encourage the growth of new shoots in spring and to support the growth of diverse plant life.

This year, it will take place on Saturday, March 7, starting at 8:30 a.m. If it cannot be carried out due to rain or other conditions, it will be postponed to March 8, March 14, or March 15.

The sky may become dark, and depending on wind direction, ash may travel to distant areas. Ash may also accumulate in gardens, on roofs, and on balconies, so please cooperate by drying laundry indoors and moving vehicles to covered areas.

2. Notice from the Tochigi Tax Office: Information on the Tax Return Filing Venue

The tax return filing period for Reiwa 7 (2025) is from February 16 to March 16.

The venue is the Tochigi Chamber of Commerce and Industry Grand Hall in Katayanagi-cho. Reception hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and consultations begin at 9:00 a.m.

An admission ticket is required to enter the tax return venue. Admission tickets must be reserved in advance via the National Tax Agency's official LINE account.

If possible, please use e-Tax, which allows you to file your Reiwa 7 tax return from home using your My Number Card. Using e-Tax eliminates the need to visit the venue or bring or mail documents. It is available 24 hours a day, including holidays, making it very convenient.

3. Beware of Infectious Gastroenteritis (Norovirus)

Norovirus-related infectious gastroenteritis and food poisoning are especially common in winter. There is no vaccine or specific medication effective against norovirus. Treatment can only temporarily relieve symptoms, so prevention through handwashing and disinfection is essential.

Norovirus is often transmitted through contaminated hands or food and causes symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, and fever within one to two days. Even if symptoms do not appear, infected individuals may excrete the virus in their stool and unknowingly spread it to others. Healthy individuals often recover with mild symptoms, but children and the elderly may develop severe illness, so caution is advised.

Prevention methods include frequent handwashing with soap, disinfecting cooking utensils with sodium hypochlorite or diluted household chlorine bleach, thoroughly cooking oysters and similar foods, avoiding food handling when experiencing diarrhea or vomiting, and regularly cleaning and disinfecting toilets.