

1. To All Bicycle Riders

Due to a partial revision of the Road Traffic Act, a Traffic Violation Notification System for bicycles will begin on April 1, 2026.

This system requires people aged 16 and older who fail to follow bicycle traffic rules to pay a penalty.

Examples of major violations include crossing at a red light, riding while looking at a smartphone, riding while holding an umbrella or listening to loud audio through earphones, riding on the right side of the road, failing to stop at stop signs or railway crossings, riding at night without lights, and two or more bicycles riding side by side at the same speed.

Depending on the violation, fines are expected to range from 3,000 to 12,000 yen.

In recent years, bicycle accidents have been increasing. These rules were established to help prevent serious injuries and accidents. Bicycles are considered vehicles, just like cars and motorcycles.

Please follow traffic rules and practice safe riding more than ever before.

2. Child-Rearing Support Allowance for Rising Prices & Additional Support Payment

Support will be provided to households raising children who are heavily affected by rising prices.

This includes a national Child-Rearing Support Allowance of 20,000 yen and a city-funded additional Child-Rearing Support Plus Allowance of 10,000 yen.

Eligible recipients are residents of the city who fall under one of the following: parents/guardians of children eligible for the September 2025 Child Allowance; parents/guardians of children born between October 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026; or individuals who became newly required to apply for Child Allowance due to divorce on or after October 1, 2025.

Those who applied for Child Allowance with the city by January 2026 are scheduled to receive payment on March 4 into the same account used for Child Allowance payments.

Others must apply through the Child-Rearing General Affairs Division.

The payment amount is 30,000 yen per child from age 0 through the third year of high school. This is a one-time payment.

3. Please Do Not Dispose of Waste or Oil into Drains

Garbage and oil flowing from household kitchens or commercial kitchens can clog sewer pipes, causing wastewater to overflow from inspection basins or manholes.

To prevent this, please take measures to keep waste and oil from entering the sewer system. Do not flush anything other than toilet paper. Wipe oil from cooking utensils and dishes before washing.

Do not pour leftover soups directly down the drain; strain them using unwanted cloth or absorb them with paper before disposal.

Used cooking oil should be solidified using commercial hardening agents and disposed of as burnable waste, or allowed to cool, have large debris removed, be placed into an empty PET bottle, and submitted for collection.

When submitting oil in PET bottles, be sure to tightly close the cap. Only vegetable oil can be collected.

Collection boxes are located next to the security office on the multi-level parking structure side of City Hall, at Regional Development Promotion Division counters at local branch offices, and at roadside stations.

Collection is also available at Torisen Kuranomachi Store, Torisen Ohira Store, Torisen Fujioka Store, and Otani Nishikata Store.

If a sewer pipe becomes clogged and wastewater will not flow, please consult a designated Tochigi City drainage equipment contractor.