

1. Issuance of Tax Payment Notices

May is a month with many tax payments.

First are automobile tax and light vehicle tax. On May 1, Tochigi Prefecture will send automobile tax payment notices to people who own cars. On May 14, Tochigi City Hall will send light vehicle tax payment notices.

These notices state how much tax you need to pay and the payment deadline. The deadline is June 1, so be sure to pay by that date.

Automobile tax and light vehicle tax can be paid not only at banks and convenience stores, but also by credit card or smartphone payment apps such as PayPay.

Next are property tax and city planning tax. On May 15, Tochigi City Hall will send payment notices for these taxes to people who own land or houses.

When you receive the notice, check the amount and the payment deadline. You can pay the full amount at once or in four installments. For both full payment and the first installment, the deadline is June 1.

If you have any questions, please contact the Property Tax Section at City Hall.

2. New Applications and Renewals for My Number Cards

People who are registered as residents of Tochigi City and wish to apply for a new My Number Card or renew their card can do so at 29 post offices within the city, even without an application form. There is no need to go to City Hall.

If you already have an application form, you can also apply yourself using a smartphone or computer.

Applications at post offices require advance reservation by phone.

About one month after applying, you will receive a notification letter. Bring this to the City Hall main office (Citizen Services Division) or a branch office (Regional Development Promotion Division) to receive your card.

Renewal of the electronic certificate on the My Number Card cannot be done at post offices.

Applications to continue using a My Number driver's license cannot be done at post offices.

3. Bicycle Traffic Violation Ticket System (Blue Ticket)

This is a reminder of information from the March issue of the multilingual information corner. It is very important for people who ride bicycles.

From April 1, 2026, the Traffic Violation Notification System, commonly known as the blue ticket, has been introduced for bicycle traffic violations.

When a violation occurs, the police will issue a blue ticket describing the violation, along with a payment slip to be used at a bank or post office when paying the fine. Police officers will not collect fines in cash on the spot.

In principle, the fine must be paid within seven days starting from the day after the violation. This means going to a bank or post office and completing the payment procedure.

If the fine is not paid, the case will move to criminal procedures and may result in a conviction.

This system applies to bicycle riders aged 16 and older.

Examples of fines include:

Using a smartphone while riding, such as making calls or looking at the screen: 12,000 yen.

Ignoring traffic signals: 6,000 yen.

Riding side by side in parallel: 3,000 yen.

These rules are in place to prevent traffic accidents and to avoid being involved in accidents.

Please make sure to follow traffic rules carefully.