# 多言語情報コーナー

（令和８年１０月号）

## 1. Foreign Residents Wanted to Participate in the Tochigi Autumn Festival!

This is an announcement from the Tochigi City International Association.

Foreign residents are being invited to participate in the Tochigi Autumn Festival, Tochigi City's largest festival, which will be held on Saturday, November 14 and Sunday, November 15. Participants will have the opportunity to help pull the festival floats.

There are two participation options. You can choose either Option A, a one-day participation experience, or Option B, a one-hour participation experience.

For Option A, approximately five people are being recruited for the one-day participation experience. Participation is from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on November 14 and 15. The participation fee is 2,000 yen per day, which covers two boxed meals and insurance. It is also possible to join from 1:00 p.m.

For Option B, approximately 10 to 15 people are being recruited for the one-hour participation experience. On November 14, participation is from around 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. On November 15, it is from around 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The participation fee is 500 yen, which covers tea and insurance.

When participating, please wear comfortable clothing and sneakers. Everything else you need for the festival will be provided.

The oldest of Tochigi's festival floats was made approximately 178 years ago, during the late Edo period. Large figures of historical figures and heroes from mythology are displayed at the top of the floats. At night, the lanterns on each float are lit, creating a beautiful and magical atmosphere.

This is a great opportunity to learn about Tochigi City’s traditional culture and interact with people from the local community. Why not come and take part?

To apply, please go to the recruitment page on the Tochigi City International Association website and complete the Google Form. We hope you will join us.

## 2. Legal Speed Limit on “Residential Roads” Reduced to 30 Kilometers per Hour

This is an announcement from the Tochigi City website.

Starting September 1 of this year, the legal speed limit on “residential roads” has been reduced from 60 kilometers per hour to 30 kilometers per hour.

“Residential roads” generally refers to relatively narrow roads used mainly for the daily lives of local residents. These are roads without a center line and without road signs indicating a maximum speed. In Tochigi Prefecture, approximately 70 percent of roads fall into the category of “residential roads.”

Before this legal change, even narrow residential roads, including roads running through residential neighborhoods and roads used by children on their way to school, had the same legal speed limit of 60 kilometers per hour as major roads.

However, on narrow residential roads, pedestrians and cyclists account for a higher proportion of people killed or injured in traffic accidents involving cars. It has also been found that in accidents involving a collision between a car and a pedestrian, the pedestrian’s risk of death increases sharply when the car is traveling at more than 30 kilometers per hour.

To prevent traffic accidents on these residential roads and to reduce injuries to pedestrians and cyclists if an accident does occur, the legal speed limit on residential roads has been reduced to 30 kilometers per hour.

Even on roads without a center line, if a road sign indicates a maximum speed of 40 or 50 kilometers per hour, please drive according to that speed limit.

However, there will not be road signs showing a 30-kilometer-per-hour limit on residential roads. Everyone needs to understand that roads without a center line and without a speed-limit sign have a legal speed limit of 30 kilometers per hour.

If you continue driving at 60 kilometers per hour on a road where the legal speed limit is 30 kilometers per hour, you will be 30 kilometers per hour over the legal limit. This is a violation resulting in six penalty points and an immediate 30-day suspension of your driver’s license. It can also result in criminal penalties of up to six months in prison or a fine of up to 100,000 yen.

Please follow the legal speed limits and drive safely.

### 3. Partial Subsidies for Vaccination Costs for Older Adults and Children

Tochigi Prefecture announced in late August that the influenza season has begun.

Normally, influenza reaches its peak between late January and early March, so an outbreak beginning in August, while the weather is still hot, is an unusual situation.

Starting in October, Tochigi City will provide a subsidy of 3,500 yen for influenza vaccinations received at participating medical institutions in the city. This applies to people who are registered as residents of Tochigi City and are 65 years of age or older at the time of vaccination, as well as people who are between 60 and 64 years old at the time of vaccination and have disabilities affecting functions such as the heart, kidneys, or respiratory system. The subsidy is available from October 1 through March 31, 2027.

For COVID-19 vaccinations, the city will provide a subsidy of 12,100 yen.

Please note that the vaccination cost is not the same as the subsidy amount. You will have to pay part of the cost yourself. Your out-of-pocket payment will be the vaccination cost minus the subsidy amount.

The city will also provide subsidies for children who are registered as residents of Tochigi City, from six months of age through the third year of junior high school. From October 1 through February 28, 2027, children who are at least six months old and have not yet started elementary school can receive a subsidy of 2,500 yen per vaccination for up to two vaccinations during this period. Children from the first year of elementary school through the third year of junior high school can receive a subsidy of 2,500 yen for one vaccination during this period.

The amount remaining after the subsidy is deducted from the vaccination cost must be

paid by the individual at the medical institution.

Please note that the amount you pay yourself differs depending on the medical institution.
If you wish to receive a vaccination, please be sure to make an appointment in advance.

## 4. Preventing Tuberculosis

This is an announcement from Tochigi Prefecture and the Kennan Public Health Center.

Every year, September 24 through September 30 is “Tuberculosis and Respiratory Infection Prevention Week.”

In the areas covered by the Tochigi Prefecture Kennan Public Health Center, the proportion of tuberculosis patients who were born outside Japan has been increasing year by year, and Tochigi Prefecture continues to have a higher proportion than the national average. In particular, Asian countries such as the Philippines, Myanmar, and Indonesia are areas with high numbers of tuberculosis patients. People may become infected in their home country and develop tuberculosis after entering Japan if their immune system becomes weakened due to changes in their living environment or other factors.

Tuberculosis is an infectious disease caused by breathing in tuberculosis bacteria contained in the coughs and sneezes of someone who has developed the disease. Being infected does not necessarily mean that you will develop the disease. Even if you are infected, if you have not developed tuberculosis, there is no risk of passing it on to other people.

When tuberculosis develops, symptoms can include a cough lasting two weeks or more, phlegm, a persistent mild fever, night sweats, weight loss, and feeling tired or weak. Even if you have developed tuberculosis, if it is diagnosed early, before you can infect people around you, it can be treated without hospitalization.

However, because of language barriers, a lack of understanding of the medical system, financial reasons, cultural differences, and other factors, people may delay seeking

medical care even when they have symptoms. As a result, tuberculosis may not be discovered until it has become more serious. Delays in seeking medical care and diagnosis can also lead to outbreaks in which the infection spreads among people at workplaces or schools.

Early detection is important to prevent an outbreak. Even if you have no symptoms, have a chest X-ray as part of a health checkup once a year. Also, if you notice any changes in your health, do not assume that it is simply a common cold. Please seek medical attention as soon as possible.