SAITAMA PREF. SET UP CONSULTATION SERVICE FOR NOVEL CORONAVIRUS INFECTION

Following the outbreak of novel coronavirus infection in Wuhan City, China, Saitama Prefecture announced that it has set criteria by encouraging people to see a doctor, and also started a consultation service at each Hokenjo (public health center). The Prefecture recommends a diagnosis test, if you:
(1) have a fever of 37.5°C or up with respiratory symptoms (cough, etc.), and
(2) have a travel history to Wuhan, or have had close contact with a person with the above symptoms and travel history to Wuhan.

If you fit the criteria, immediately consult Sayama Hokenjo (☎04-2954-6212 for weekdays) or the section in charge in Prefecture Office (☎048-830-3557 for holidays) or Kyukyu Denwa Soda (Emergency consultation hotline) ☎# # 7119.

CONSULTATION WITH IMMIGRATION OFFICERS AT CITY OFFICE ON FEBRUARY 14 HELPS SOLVE YOUR VISA QUESTIONS

As part of its outreach programs to work with local governments, the Immigration Services Agency will assign two officers of the Residence Investigation Section to Iruma City Office on February 14 (Friday) between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. They will give you advice on procedures and the necessary documents to obtain residence permission, although they cannot give the final decision. The three advisors from the Information Desk for Foreign Residents who can speak English, Spanish, and Chinese will be present during these hours, you can consult in the languages mentioned. You can also ask questions by email or fax in your language (please send your questions well in advance for translation) by providing necessary information (anonymous if you prefer).

Note that the information desk in Spanish on February 12 (Wed) will be open as usual in this week, but the desk in English on Tuesday will not because it is a national holiday.

Questions Asked Last Consultation in September
► "My old mother lives alone in my country. I would like to invite her to Japan to live with me. Can I do that? What are the requirements for that?"
► "My friend abroad is finishing her college education and wishes to come to Japan to work. How can I advise her for that?"
► "My acquaintance threatens me saying that she has reported the immigration office to stop my visa. Is that possible? Can I extend my visa next time?"

Inquiries: Jichi Bunka-ka (Section for Community and Culture) ☎04-2964-1111 ext. 2147 Fax: 04-2964-1720 E-mail: i-society@city.irmu.lg.jp

CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS OF IRLUMA

The number of foreign residents who have registered in Iruma City as of January 1, 2020 was 2,267. This is an increase of almost two hundred from the previous year (2,099), and again surpassed all previous records. The total population of Iruma has been on a gradual downward trend, and in the same period it decreased from 148,442 to 147,731. Consequently, the proportion of foreign residents is rising from 1.41% as of January 1, 2019 to 1.53% as of January 1, 2020.

When looking further at where foreign residents in Iruma come from, the majority (580) comes from China, followed by Vietnam (441), Philippine (356) and South Korea (130). The numbers of people who came from Brazil (98) and Peru (86) have been stable for these years.

The national statistics say that there are now about 2.83 million non-Japanese out of the total population of 126.23 million in the country as of June 1, 2019. Japan is still far from being a diverse country, but these figures speak volumes about the ongoing change.

HOLIDAY MEDICAL SERVICES

If you or a family member becomes sick or injured on these days, visit a hospital on the list. Healthcare covered by health insurance is provided from 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Please make a call before visiting. These services are basically for patients who do not need to be hospitalized.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Hospital</th>
<th>Specialized In</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Name of Hospital</th>
<th>Specialized In</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kobayashi Byoin</td>
<td>Internal medicine</td>
<td>Miyadera 2417</td>
<td>04-2934-5121</td>
<td>Kameko Byoin</td>
<td>Internal medicine</td>
<td>Arakun 680</td>
<td>04-2962-2204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toyooka Seikei Geka Byoin</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>Toyooka 1-7-16</td>
<td>04-2962-8256</td>
<td>Toyooka Seikei Geka Byoin</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>Toyooka 1-7-16</td>
<td>04-2962-8256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seibu Iruma Byoin</td>
<td>Internal medicine</td>
<td>Noda 3078-13</td>
<td>04-2932-1121</td>
<td>Kobayashi Byoin</td>
<td>Internal medicine</td>
<td>Miyadera 2417</td>
<td>04-2934-5121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toyooka Daichi Byoin</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>Kurosou 1369-3</td>
<td>04-2964-6311</td>
<td>Toyooka Daiich Byoin</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>Kurosou 1369-3</td>
<td>04-2964-8311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iruma Heart Byoin</td>
<td>Internal medicine</td>
<td>Koyota 1258-1</td>
<td>04-2934-5050</td>
<td>Kyukyu Denwa Sodan (Emergency consultation hotline) is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year; Push #7119 or Dial 048-834-4199. Nurses give advice on whether to seek hospital care for sudden illnesses or injuries.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harada Byoin</td>
<td>Internal &amp; Surg.</td>
<td>Toyooka 1-13-3</td>
<td>04-2962-1251</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Get the latest news from FBI on FM CHAPPY 77.7 MHz

Every Tuesday 7:00-7:30 p.m. in English, 1st & 3rd Tuesday 7:30 to 7:55 in Spanish and 2nd & 4th Tuesday 7:30 to 7:55 in Chinese
**TIME TO FILE YOUR FINAL TAX RETURNS**

Tax returns for the year 2019 should be filed by March 16 (Mon). You can do this filing procedure at the several locations on the table below and at the City Office from Monday to Friday from February 17 to March 16. Bring your Gensen Choshu-Hyo, and other supporting documents such as documents relating to dependents, a certificate of health insurance/life insurance premium payment, and so on. If you have gone through the year-end adjustment (nennatsu chosei) procedures by yourself, you do not have to worry about the final tax return, except when you have any deductible expenses not reported to the company such as a large amount of medical expenses and housing loan.

**NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE FOR NEW SCHOOL CHILDREN**

A “notice of acceptance” should have been mailed to all parents of children who will commence elementary school and junior high school next spring (those who were born between April 2, 2017 and April 1, 2018, respectively) by the end of January. If you have not received a notice yet, or if your child will not attend the designated school, please contact the Gakko Kyokoku-ka in the City Office (4th floor). **Inquiries:** Gakko Kyokoku-ka (Section for School Education)

**TO SAVE YOUR LIFE**

**Earthquake Early Warning System**

You may have been wrenched from sleep with the disturbing sound from your mobile early morning on February 1, 2020. That was the earthquake alert that signals strong tremors before they arrive. Actually Ibaraki was hit by an M5.3 earthquake right after the alert.

The EEW system automatically calculates the focus and magnitude of the earthquake and estimates the seismic intensity for each location by detecting the quake (i.e. the P-wave or the preliminary tremor) near its focus. Then a warning is given a matter of seconds before the arrival of strong tremors (i.e. the S-wave, or principal motion) through mobile phones and disaster radio systems.

When you hear the sound at home, protect your head and shelter in a safe space. Do not rush outside. In public buildings, stay calm and follow the attendant’s instructions. When you are driving a car, do not slow down suddenly, but turn on your hazard lights, and then slow down slowly. Pull safely over to the left and stop. Elevators stop at the elevator at the nearest floor automatically: get off immediately.

**For more information:** Kiki Kanri-ka (Section for risk management)

---

**EVENTS THIS MONTH**

**IRUMA ‘BUDO’ MARTIAL ARTS FESTIVAL**

February 11 (National Holiday) from 9:00 to 11:45 a.m. at the Budokan (in Kurosu) and the Kurosu Chiku Taikukan (Community Gym). All the Budo teams in Iruma will gather together to demonstrate their skills. Performances include Kendo, Karate, Judo, Kyudo, Shorinji-Kempo, Naginata, Aikido and Iaido. Spectators are welcome and can try some budo themselves. **Inquiries:** Sports Suishin-ka (Section for Sport Promotion)

**EXHIBITION OF ANTIQUE ‘HINA’ DOLLS**

From February 8 (Sat) to March 8 (Sun) from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the entrance hall of the City Museum ALIT. Sets of gorgeous dolls representing an imperial wedding at the Palace, including one made in Kyoto period (1719-1736), are exhibited. Admission is free. Explanation will be given at 2:30 p.m. on February 29 (Sat) and March 3 (Tue). Amazake (a sweet low-alcohol drink made from fermented rice or sake lees) will be served for free between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on March 3. **Inquiries:** The City Museum ALIT 04-2934-7711

**PLAY AND ENJOY MUSIC AT TOY LIBRARY**

February 16 (Sun) at 11:00 a.m. at Jido (Children) Center. Play freely with toys and sing together with a keyboard player/song writer, Rito Miura. The performance will start at 11:45. No admission or reservation is necessary. **Inquiries:** Jido (Children) Center 04-2963-9611

**KENKO FUKUSHI CENTER FESTIVAL**

March 8 (Sunday) from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

At the Kenko Fukushima (Health & Welfare) Center in Kami Fujisawa. The program includes workshops on baby care and health-sustaining exercise, acupuncture experience, blood vessel aging measurement, oral cavity cancer screening, Tai Chi performance and a variety of other performances, food stands, games and much more. There are also blood donation and narrow donor registry sessions. The parking lots are limited; the Tea-Road bus provides extra services on the day from Iruma-shi station (takes 25 minutes). **Inquiries:** Kenko Fukushima Center 04-2966-5511

**SPECIAL EXHIBITION AT THE CITY MUSEUM**

**Life and Tools in Olden Days**

Until February 14 (Fri) at the City Museum. The exhibition features photographs of life in Iruma in the olden days and tools used at that time. A special focus will be placed on tools used during the 1930s and 1960s. Visit the exhibition to learn what life was like in Iruma when your grandparents and parents were children. There is a corner where you can actually use some of the tools and toys and try on a kimono everyday during the exhibition period, and more events on weekends! You can try some old fashioned Japanese activities such as picture-card shows on February 8 (at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.) and listening to old records on February 11 (between 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.). Admission is free. **Inquiries:** City Museum “ALIT” 04-2934-7711

**Happy Valentine’s Day**

**Information Desk for Foreign Residents**

Located on the second floor of the City Office.

**English:** Every Tuesday, Spanish: Every Wednesday,

Chinese: February 6 & March 5 (First Thursday of the month)

All from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Consultations by fax (04-2964-1720) or by e-mail (ivsociety@city.iruma.lg.jp)
are welcome.

We are happy to assist you in filing a final tax return! We expect many people to come during this season, so come early to avoid a long wait.