



Edited by: Information Desk for Foreign Residents, Chiiki Shinko-ka, Iruma City Office, Tel: 04-2964-1111 ext. 2147

TO SUPPORT LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS SPECIAL BENEFIT OF 70,000 YEN PAID THIS MONTH

To mitigate the impacts caused by recent utility cost increases, the city will offer a special one-time benefit of 70,000 yen to low-income households who have a resident registration in Iruma as of December 1, 2023 and whose per capita levy of local resident taxes are exempted for all the household members. Eligible households should have already received a notice of payment by postal mail. No reply or application is necessary. The benefit will be automatically sent to your registered bank account after the middle of February.

If you think you are eligible but have not received any notice, there is a possibility that the City cannot monitor your income in 2022 because you failed to report your income through your company or by yourself. In this case, contact the Seikatsu Shien-ka..

Also, if you did not have any resident registration in Japan as of January 1, 2024 (i.e. you entered Japan late 2023 or early this year), you need to make an application to receive this benefit. Apply at the City Hall or City Branch Offices with your passport, resident card and cash card/bank book.

Inquiries: Seikatsu Shien-ka (Section for Livelihood Support)



RATE OF FOREIGN NATIONALS EXCEEDED TWO PERCENT IN IRUMA

As of January 1, 2024, there are 2,958 foreign residents who have registered in Iruma City, which still shows a continuous increase after COVID ban was lifted. Residents from other Asian countries are dramatically increasing; among them the population of Indonesian increased by 50% compared to the previous year. While the total population of Iruma has been on a continuous downward trend, the proportion of foreign residents is as high as **2.04%** as of January 1, 2024; one out of 50 Iruma citizens is a foreign national!

	Country	Pop.	Other countries include:
1	Vietnam ↑	751	Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Chosun, Congo, Cuba, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Laos, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Russia, Senegal, Singapore, Sudan, Sweden, Swiss, Tunisia, Turkey, UK, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen (in alphabetical order)
2	China ↑	584	
3	Philippines ↑	455	
4	Indonesia ↑	167	
5	South Korea →	145	
6	Nepal ↑	130	
7	Brazil →	102	
8	Myanmar ↑	97	
9	Peru →	86	
10	Thai →	69	
11	Taiwan →	51	
12	USA →	44	
13	Mongolia →	37	
14	Sri Lanka ↑	35	
15	Pakistan →	26	
	Others in total	179	

GIFTS FROM IRUMA CITY & SAITAMA PREFECTURE TO CELEBRATE NEWBORN BABIES

Iruma city started to send a gift last month to celebrate and support households who welcomed a baby after April 1, 2023. The gift is a digital QUO Card Pay worth 5,000-yen, which you can receive through your smartphone and use at selected stores directly without downloading any application.



Households who received this gift from Iruma City will also be able to receive a gift from Saitama Prefecture. You can get this gift, named Kobaton Baby Gift, by applying through the QR code printed on the leaflet enclosed with the gift from Iruma City. You can choose your gift from the list. Both programs are to be discontinued at the end of March 2024.

Inquiries: Kodomo Shien-ka (Section for Child Support).

SUNDAY/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

	Name of hospital	Specialized in	Address	Tel.		Name of hospital	Specialized in	Address	Tel.
Feb 4	Kobayashi Byoin	Internal medicine	Miyadera 2417	04-2934-5121	Feb. 18	Kaneko Byoin	Internal medicine	Araku 680	04-2962-2204
	Toyooka Seikei Geka Byoin	Surgery	Toyooka 1-7-16	04-2962-8256		Toyooka Seikei Geka Byoin	Surgery	Toyooka 1-7-16	04-2962-8256
11	Seibu Iruma Byoin	Internal medicine	Noda 3078-13	04-2932-1121	23	Kobayashi Byoin	Internal medicine	Miyadera 2417	04-2934-5121
	Toyooka Daiichi Byoin	Surgery	Kurosu 1369-3	04-2964-6311		Toyooka Daiichi Byoin	Surgery	Kurosu 1369-3	04-2964-6311
12	Iruma Heart Byoin	Internal medicine	Koyata 1258-1	04-2934-5050	25	Seibu Iruma Byoin	Internal medicine	Noda 3078-13	04-2932-1121
	Harada Byoin	Internal & Surg.	Toyooka 1-13-3	04-2962-1251		Harada Byoin	Internal & Surg.	Toyooka 1-13-3	04-2962-1251

Kyukyu Denwa Sodan (Emergency consultation hotline) is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year: **Push #7119** or **Dial 048-824-4199**. As for children, Shoni Kyukyu Denwa (pediatrics hotline): **Push #8000** or **Dial 048-833-7911**. Nurses give advice on whether to seek hospital care for sudden illnesses or injuries.

Saitama COVID-19 Hotline for Foreign Residents: ☎ 048-711-3025

24 hours/7 days in English, 汉语, Español, Português, 한국-조선어, Tagalog, ภาษาไทย, Tiếngviết, bahasaindonesia, नेपाली and simple Japanese.



TIME TO FILE YOUR FINAL TAX RETURNS

Tax returns for the year 2023 should be filed by March 15 (Fri). If you have gone through the year-end adjustment (nenmatsu chousei) procedures by your company, 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 dependents overseas, a large medical expenses and housing loan.

The Information Desk is happy to help you with your processing. Just bring all the related documents, including the gensen choshu hyo, a certificate of life insurance premium payment, receipts of medical expense, etc. Also, **Tokorozawa Taxation Office** (Tokorozawa-shi Namiki 1-7) consultation tables on weekdays from February 16 to March 15 and on February 25 (Sun), from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. You can pick up an appointment number by Taxation Office's official LINE account or on the day. Because one case takes a quite long time to complete, please allow enough time for consultations.

Shimin-ka Opening on Saturdays:

February 10 & 24, 8:30 a.m. to noon

Registration and certification regarding of moving-in/moving-out, juminhyo, koseki and registered seals; reports of family register-related events (birth, death, marriage, divorce and other)

This Month's Tax Payment (Due date: Feb. 29)

- ◆Fixed Property Tax & Urban Planning Tax (固定資産税 & 都市計画税)
- ◆National Health Insurance Premium (国民健康保険 kokumin kenko hoken)
- ◆Long-term Care Insurance Premium (介護保険 Kaigo hoken)
- ◆Medical Insurance Premium for Aged 75 + (後期高齢者医療保険 Koki Koreisha Iryo Hoken)

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, and those who were born between April 2, 2011 and April 1, 2012, 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 Koiku-ka in the City Office (4th floor). **Inquiries:** Gakko Kyoiku-ka (Section for School Education)

EVENTS THIS MONTH

'FUREAI' MARCHÉ IRUMA

February 21 (Wed) from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the garden of Iruma City Hall. Fresh eggs, seasonal vegetables, tofu, and miso locally produced are sold. **Inquiries:** Nogyo Shinko-ka (Section for Agricultural Promotion)

IRUMA 'BUDO' MARTIAL ARTS FESTIVAL

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

IRUMA ENVIRONMENT FAIR

March 3 (Sun) from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Citizens' Activity Center 'Irumin' (near Shimin Gym). Panel exhibitions by citizen's groups, businesses and the city, as well as an original musical and games focused on environmental protection. Admission is free. **Inquiries:** Eco Clean Seisaku-ka (Section for Policies on Environment and Waste Disposal)

CITY MUSEUM SPECIAL EXHIBITION

Life and Tools in Olden Days

Until **February 14**

At the renewal of the permanent exhibition on the second floor last year, the museum installed two scenes of houses in Iruma in Showa era, representing people's lives in 1930s and 1960s when your grandparents and parents were children. On top of that, this special exhibition features tools which are seldom seen nowadays. There are related events during the period, as listed below.

- Children's Traditional Activities (stilts, wheel rolling etc): Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Tea Leaf Roasting Experience: February 4 (Sun) from 10:30 a.m..
- Garden Nature Walk: February 10 (Sat) at 2:00 p.m.

Admission to the permanent exhibition is 200 yen for adults, and free for this special exhibition. Museum is closed on Mondays (except February 12) and February 13. **Inquiries:** City Museum ALIT ☎04-2934-7711



Happy Valentine's Day



NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM INCREASE FOR FY 2024



In accordance with the Prefectural policy for the operation of the National Health Insurance (NHI) scheme, cities in Saitama need to resolve any debt in the NHI account and adopt the integrated premium rates by 2026. The City of Iruma revises the premium rate.

The City will start applying the new premium rates in April 2024. The premium on per capita basis (computed evenly according to the number of family members) will be **increased from 43,000 yen to 67,000 yen a year** (total of medical benefit/kaigo/support for elderly), with minor changes in the rate of the income-based premiums.

The City will strengthen its efforts to reduce medical expenses (e.g. promotion of generic drugs and health promoting programs) and increase income (e.g. collection of unpaid premiums). Thank you for your understanding.

Inquiries: Kokuho Iryo-ka (Section for National Health Insurance and Medical Care)

Information Desk for Foreign Residents

Located on the second floor of the City Office. All consultations are kept confidential. **English: Every Tuesday and, by appointment, 2nd & 4th Friday;** Spanish: Every Wednesday; Chinese: February 8 (As a rule, on the first Thursday of the month, but on the second this February). **All from 9:00 a.m. to noon.** Consultations by fax (04-2964-1720), by e-mail (i-society@city.iruma.lg.jp), or by LINE video talk (needs to make friends with International Friendship Society first) 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.