

HELLO SAKURA

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This is a free monthly English newsletter for foreign residents carrying excerpts from the Japanese newsletter published twice a month by the City of Sakura. Unless otherwise indicated, inquiries over the telephone or at the facilities are handled only in Japanese. If you do not speak Japanese, please have someone who speaks Japanese with you when you make inquiries. Inquiries in English can be answered generally on Mondays and Tuesdays through Koh'hoh-ka (the Public Relations Section) at Sakura City Hall.

City's Basic Policy FY2012

CREATE A SAFE AND COMFORT HOMETOWN TO HAND OVER TO THE NEXT GENERATION



"From the mid- and long-term perspective, we establish the foundation for the future," said Mayor Warabi.

Mayor Kazuo Warabi gave his policy speech at the regular meeting of the City in February. The basic policies of the City's administration in FY2012 are as outlined below:

1. Enhance disaster protection measures

To guarantee public safety and security, we make better preparation for earthquakes hitting the Tokyo metropolitan area, as well as implementing appropriate measures against radioactive contamination after the Fukushima accident.

Major objectives include:

- Accelerate reinforcement works of public schools against earthquakes
- Equip all the shelters with fire-fighting wells, among others.

2. Create a hometown in which people want to live

To prevent population decline, we enrich measures for child support, education and welfare to make Sakura a hometown where

people in all generation want to live. At the same time, we create new employment and activate local industries by attracting companies. Major objectives include:

- Enrich child rearing environment through improving facilities at public and private nurseries
- Enhance elder care systems through construction of facilities and reinforcing measures for dementia
- Establish a community college in Chiyoda elementary school, among others.

3. Facilitate cooperation and collaboration among community members

To encourage citizens participation in autonomy management, we will address local issues in collaboration with residents associations, public interest groups, and people who are willing to contribute to the community. At the same time, we will study various cases of interregional cooperation in various fields. Major objectives include:

- In collaboration with citizens, set up a beautiful gateway in front of JR Sakura Station to show our hospitality to visitors
- Conduct case study of sister-cities agreements, among others.

4. Promote financial soundness of the City

Establish a sustainable finance model through cost cutting by continual review of operational and financial management. Major objectives include:

- Strengthen facility management to rationalize the City's assets
- Review our services based on the City's performance evaluation system, among others.

SAKURA TULIP FESTA

~ Feel the Breath of Spring! ~

9:00 to 16:00, April 1 (Sun) to 29 (Sun) at *Sakura Furusato Hiroba*, rain or shine

It's the season to enjoy the carpet of tulips at *Sakura Furusato Hiroba* again. Some 530,000 tulips of 108 different kinds will be blooming in the field beside the landmark Dutch windmill 'De Liefde' and the *Imba-numa Lake*. Many vendors will set up stalls selling tulips, food, drinks and local products. Visitors can enjoy strolling through the field of tulips and various events such as:

- Bicycle rental for ¥500 (electric bicycles for ¥1,000)
- *Fu'sha* (Windmill) Festival ~ *Let's enjoy Netherlands!* ~ Apr. 7 & 8
- "Yakata-bune" boat tour on *Imba-numa Lake*
(45-minute ride: ¥1,000/adult, ¥500/child) Apr. 7 & 8, 13 to 19, and 21 & 22
- Rental Dutch traditional costumes (45-minute rental: ¥1,000) Apr. 7 & 8 and 13 to 22
- Dutch Street Organ performance Saturdays & Sundays from Apr. 7 to 22

As there are not enough parking lots around the venue, you are encouraged to take shuttle bus service (¥100). Call *Sakura City Kankoh Kyohkai* (tourist association), ☎486-6000 for further information.



SAKURA CASTLE-GRADE GOURMET FOOD CONTEST

April 21 (Sat), at *Sakura Furusato Hiroba Square* (venue of *Tulip Festa*)

To honor superior gourmet foods made of various products of Sakura City and to introduce them widely, a gourmet contest will be held. The Leader Gourmet Food of Castle-grade will be chosen by voters. Voters are to sample the top five gourmet foods that passed the first screening, namely Chewy Rice Noodle, *Sakura Koban* (Japanese piroshky with meat-miso), Cutlets Noodle, *Yama-Ton Stick* (wiener sausage with Japanese Yam sauce), and Sakura Rice Bowl. Food tickets (¥1,000 per one set, limited to 300 sets) will be sold at *Sakura City Kankoh Kyokai* (near the *Keisei Sakura Station*) from 13:30, April 2 (Mon). To be a voter, it is necessary to buy these tickets (limited to two sets per person) in advance. Call Sakura tourists association, ☎486-6000 for further information.

FREE VACCINATIONS AGAINST

CERVICAL CANCER, HIB, & PNEUMOCOCCAL DISEASE



Free vaccinations against cervical cancer, HIB (Haemophilus Influenza type B), and pediatric pneumococcal disease are available also in this fiscal year. Persons eligible are:

Cervical Cancer vaccines: Girls from the 1st grade of junior high school to the 1st grade of senior high school, and girls in the 2nd grade of senior high school who got the first or second vaccination on 31 March 2012 or before.

HIB and Pneumococcal disease vaccines: Children older than two months and under five years. Call *Kenkoh Kanri Center* ☎485-6711 for more information.

A SECOND MEASLES VACCINATION FOR FREE

There were 26 cases of measles in Chiba prefecture last year, which was the fifth largest number in Japan. Measles is a very contagious viral disease that can cause potentially fatal lung and brain complications. People get measles by breathing in droplets that contain the measles virus or by contact with fluids from the nose or throat of an infected person. In order to acquire immunity, a second vaccination is strongly recommended. We offer free second vaccinations for the following children:

Vaccination Stage	Eligible Children
Stage 2: One year before starting school	Born between April 2, 2006 and April 1, 2007
Stage 3: 1 st grade of junior high school	Born between April 2, 1999 and April 1, 2000
Stage 4: 3 rd grade of high school	Born between April 2, 1994 and April 1, 1995

The City sent vaccination slips to eligible persons shown above at the end of March. When receiving the vaccination, please fill in the slip and submit it to one of the cooperating medical institutions for vaccinations upon reservation. Also, present “*Boshi Techoh*” (the maternity health record book) if you have one. Call *Kenkoh Kanri Center* ☎485-6711 for further information.

Why a second vaccination is recommended?

A second vaccination is necessary to maintain immunity over a long period of time for which single dose is not sufficient, and it is known that a small percentage of the single vaccine recipients fails to obtain immunity. The City's goal for 2012 is 100% vaccination for children of Stage 2 to 4.

SUBSIDY FOR PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINES FOR THE ELDERLY

The subsidy program, ¥2,000 support for pneumococcal vaccination (23-valent pneumococcal vaccine) is to be continued through March 31, 2013. If you took the vaccination after April 1, 2012 and the conditions below apply to you, please apply directly to the City Health Centers or by sending the application form with necessary documents to Kenkoh Kanri Center, Ebaradai 2-27, Sakura, ☎285-0825. Your personal seal, a copy of your payment receipt, and details on your bank account for the deposit are required to be submitted. Application forms are available at medical institutions and the Health Centers, and you can also download it from the City's Homepage; http://www.city.sakura.lg.jp/012360000_kenkozoshin/030form/yobousessyu/pneumovax_sinsei.pdf.



Eligible citizens are: i) 65 years of age or older as at the date of the vaccination, or ii) between 60 and 64 years of age as at the date of the vaccination and have a disability falling within the 1st grade of disability due to cardiac, kidney, respiratory, or HIV-associated diseases. Call *Kenkoh Kanri Center* ☎485-6711 for further information.

NEW SUBSIDY FOR HUMAN DOCK (MEDICAL CHECKUP)

A new subsidy program for human dock starts this fiscal year. Those who subscribe to **National Health Insurance** or **Latter-Stage Elderly Healthcare System** are eligible to apply for the program. For any checkup including checkup items of the “City's Specified Medical Checkup” taken by eligible persons between April 1, 2012 and March 31, 2013, half of the cost will be covered with a ceiling of ¥10,000. Application forms will be distributed from April 16 and accepted from May 1. For details about eligibility, please call *Kenko-Hoken-ka (Health Insurance Section)*, ☎484-1783 (for those who are covered by National Health Insurance) or 484-6136 (the Latter-Stage Elderly).

SCHOLARSHIP FOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



The city of Sakura will grant scholarship for senior high school students who meet all of the following conditions: ●those who live in Sakura, ●those who have recommendation by the junior high school principal, ●those who finished junior high school and were enrolled in senior high school from the next fiscal year or the year after, ●those who had earned a grade point average of three or more on the five level rating system at the time of graduation from junior high school and motivated to learn, and ●those whose family income during the previous year was less than 1.3 times of standard income for public assistance eligibility, and who are in financial difficulties in attending senior high school. Successful applicants will be granted the scholarship up to ¥80,000 per year. Application deadline is Friday, April 27. Application forms are available at *Kyoh'iku-sohmu-ka* (General Educational Affairs Section) at the City Hall. Or, you can download the form from the City's homepage: <http://www.city.sakura.lg.jp/kyoikusomu/info/sinsei/syougakukinn2010%E2%91%A1.pdf>. Call *Kyoh'iku-sohmu-ka*, ☎484-6182 for further information.

CITY SUBSIDY FOR EARTHQUAKE RESISTANCE

The importance of earthquake-proof of wooden houses is more significant than ever before now, with frequent outbreaks of large-scale earthquakes nationwide. Sakura City grants subsidy to its citizens for their testing quake resistance of **single wooden houses built on 31 May 1981 or earlier** when they meet certain requirements including current living in the house. For detailed requirements, please contact the division in charge shown below.

(1) Test for Quake Resistance

Amount of subsidy: Two third of the testing cost calculated by the City with a ceiling of ¥75,000.

How to apply: Submit the application form and necessary documents on April 1, 2012 and thereafter.

(2) Quakeproof Reinforcement – to be granted in an open drawing

Quakeproof reinforcement work, implemented so as not to collapse after being diagnosed that there is a possibility of collapse in the event of earthquake, can be partly covered by the City subsidy.

Amount of subsidy: Half of the reinforcement cost calculated by the City with a ceiling of ¥500,000.

How to apply: Submit the application form and necessary documents between April 1 and 27, 2012, prior to the open drawing to be held in early May. Call *Kenchiku Shidoh-ka* (Construction Guidance Section), ☎484-6169 for inquiries.

DOGS MASS VACCINATION AGAINST RABIES

In accordance with the Rabies Prevention Law, all dog owners are required to register their pets and have them vaccinated against rabies once every year. The city offers mass vaccinations at many locations in Sakura, and vaccination notices will be sent to the owners of registered dogs. Please fill out the form and bring it to the venue. The rabies shot costs ¥2,800 and the “vaccination completed tag” fee is ¥550. Owners of unregistered dogs can also have their dog registered at the same time with ¥3,000 registration fee. If you are unable to attend any of the mass vaccination, have your dog immunized at an animal clinic.



NOTES ●Please refrain from visiting by car as parking lots are not available except at Iwana Sports Park. ●In the following cases, no rabies shot can be administered to dogs; if your dog is registered at another city and you have not yet completed its moving-in procedures into Sakura; if it is less than one month since your dog received a different kind of vaccination; if serious side effects from vaccination were experienced in the past; if your dog is in mating season, pregnant, breast-feeding, or under 91 days of age; if you are not able to keep your dog under control. ●Be sure to carry a cleanup bag and utensils so that you can take your pet's droppings home. ★If any changes occur in the information listed on your dog's registration record, such as changes of owner, address, you need to report it to the city in order to have the record updated. Also, if your dog dies, you need to file a death notice to have the record canceled. Call *Seikatsu-Kankyo-ka* (Environmental Sanitation Section), ☎484-6148 for further information.

SCHEDULE OF MASS VACCINATION		
DATES	PLACES	TIMES
4/11 (Wed)	Wada Furusato-kan	9:25-10:00
	Sakado Kumin-kan	10:35-11:10
	Someino Reservoir Square	12:45-14:15
4/13 (Fri)	Shizu Koh'minkan	9:30-10:30
	Hoshiba Park (Naka-Shizu 1-chome)	11:10-11:50
	Usui Joh'shi Castle Park	13:40-14:15
4/17 (Tue)	<i>Tenshi-no-mori Park (Ohja-machi)</i>	9:20-10:00
	Matsuyama Park (Ohji-dai 6-chome)	10:45-11:25
	Oise Park (Ohji-dai 1-chome)	13:00-14:25
4/19 (Thu)	Koma-gaeshi Park (Oh'saki-dai 4-chome)	9:20-9:50
	Toh'masaku Park (Minami Yukari-ga-oka)	10:40-11:35
	Yukari-ga-oka Kita Park	13:10-14:00
4/21 (Sat)	Yukari-ga-oka Minami Park	9:30-11:25
	Minami Shizu Park (Nishi-Shizu 8-chome)	13:10-14:25
4/24 (Tue)	Yatomi Minzoku Shuh'zoh'ko (Former Yatomi Elementary school)	9:30-10:15
	San-noh Park (San-noh 2-chome)	10:45-11:20
	Shirogane Park	13:00-13:55
4/26 (Thu)	Iwana Sports Park (Beside the main parking lot)	9:15-10:25
	Ebara-dai 3-goh (No.3)Park	11:00-11:45
	Tohji-dai Nishi Park	13:20-13:50
4/28 (Sat)	City Hall (Parking lot)	9:00-12:00

THE POPULATION OF SAKURA CITY

As of the end of February 2012, the Japanese population of Sakura was 176,051 (87,102 male and 88,949 female) in 71,508 households. Registered foreign residents accounted for 2,087. The combined population of Sakura City was 178,138.

HEALTH CHECKS FOR CHILDREN

Kenkoh Kanri Center (Health Management Center) ☎485-6711; Seibu Hoken Center (Seibu Health & Welfare Center) ☎463-4181; Nambu Hoken Center (Nambu Health & Welfare Center) ☎483-2812

AGES OF CHILDREN	APRIL '12	TIME	PLACE
Health consultation for children of 4 months born in November, 2011	25 (Wed)	9:30 – 10:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
		13:30 – 14:30	
	5 (Thu)	9:30 – 10:30	Seibu Hoken Center
13:30 – 14:30			
<i>Mogu-mogu</i> (munching) Class for children of 8 months born in July, 2011	10 (Tue)	13:30 – 14:30	Nambu Hoken Center
	6 (Fri)	9:30 – 9:45	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	16 (Mon)		Seibu Hoken Center
10 (Tue)	Nambu Hoken Center		
For 18-month-old children born in October, 2010	18 (Wed)	13:15 – 14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	9 (Mon)		Seibu Hoken Center
For 3-year-old children born in October, 2008	20 (Fri)	13:15 – 14:15	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	12 (Thu)		Seibu Hoken Center
Dental check for children born in April or October, 2009, or in April, 2010 *On the days with * mark, consultation on Speech Development is also available.	11* (Wed)	13:30 – 14:30	Kenkoh Kanri Center
	24 (Tue)		
	13* (Fri)		Seibu Hoken Center
	17 (Tue)		
19* (Thu)	Nambu Hoken Center		

HEALTH CONSULTATIONS

- **Child development consultation for preschoolers (*Suku-suku Hattatsu Sohdan*)** is available on **Thursday, April 5**, 9:00-12:00 at Kenkoh Kanri Center. If you feel distressed about your child's developmental & behavioral disorders such as attention deficit disorder, do not suffer alone. Application required.
- **Consultation with public health nurse for all ages** is available on **Thursday, April 5**, 13:30-15:30, at Kenkoh Kanri Center, and on **Tuesday, April 17**, 9:30-11:30, at Nambu Hoken Center. Consultation on the health check results and ways to live a healthier life, nutritional guidance, and health check including blood-pressure measurement can be provided. Application required.
- **Telephone counseling with public health nurse or nutritionist** is available at each center, 8:30-17:15, Monday - Friday. **Dental hygienist** and **speech therapist** are also available at Kenkoh Kanri Center.

FREE ANTENATAL CLASSES

For expectant mothers and fathers to have the baby between **July and December 2012**, free antenatal classes, "**Mom's Class**" and "**Mom's and Pop's Class**," will be held as shown to the right.

● **Mom's class** gives instructions on how to lead a healthy life during pregnancy, including nutrition and oral hygiene education.

● **Mom's and Pop's Class** gives instructions on life with a newborn baby, baby bath practice, experience of pregnancy simulation to fathers, etc. Parents in their first pregnancy have priority. Application required. Please call the respective center to make a reservation.

CLASS	TIMES	DATES	PLACE
Mom's*	9:00-14:20	Apr. 27 (Fri)	Kenkoh Kanri Center
		Jun. 07 (Thu)	Seibu Hoken Center
Mom's and Pop's*	9:00-12:15	May 12 (Sat)	Kenkoh Kanri Center
		Jun. 17 (Sun)	Seibu Hoken Center
		Jul. 22 (Sun)	

(*): The multiple sessions for each class cover the same contents.

HOLIDAY & NIGHTTIME EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Always be sure to bring your health insurance certificate !

HOLIDAY & NIGHTTIME CLINIC FOR CHILDREN'S DISEASES IN ACUTE & EARLY STAGE (Pediatrics)

For children under 16 years old or younger. Open year-round for treatment at Kenkoh Kanri Center from Monday through Saturday, 19:00-6:00 (next morning). On Sundays, public holidays, and year-end/New year holidays (12/29-1/3) 9:00- 16:45 & 19:00-6:00 (next morning). Call ☎485-3355 for further information.

DAYTIME TREATMENT ON SUNDAYS, PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, & YEAR-END/NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

Consultation with doctors will be available at the doctor's office who is on duty in a rotation system. Call ☎484-2516 to learn the doctor on duty.

● **Surgeon:** 9:00-16:30, 19:00-21:45 ● **Physician, dentist:** 9:00-16:30 ● **ENT doctor:** 19:00-21:45

NIGHTTIME TREATMENT ON SUNDAYS, PUBLIC HOLIDAYS, & YEAR-END/NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

Internal medicine & dental treatment are available at Kenkoh Kanri Center, between 19:00 and 22:00 (reception is available until 21:45.). Call ☎485-6711 for further information.