



Kōhō-ka (Public Relations Section), Sakura City Hall

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This is a free monthly English newsletter carrying excerpts from the Japanese newsletter *Kōhō Sakura* (こうほう佐倉) issued by Sakura City. For a free subscription by postal mail, please send your request via email or fax to the above email address/fax number. In general, inquiries can be answered in English on **Wednesdays**, in Spanish on **Thursdays** and in Chinese on **Fridays**, through *Kōhō-ka*, City Hall. Except these days, inquiries can be answered only in Japanese at City Hall and/or other city facilities. Therefore, when making inquiries, please be accompanied by someone who speaks Japanese as needed.



## A NEW FORM OF SCHOOL CLUB ACTIVITIES IN COOPERATION WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES!



Club activities are an important opportunity for students to experience a wide range of activities including sports, arts and culture as well as to learn in a variety of ways among different grades and groups. However, due to the effects of the declining birthrate and reforms in the way teachers work, it is becoming increasingly difficult nationwide to sustain club activities with the existing management methods. In light of this situation, we will introduce some of the initiatives and examples of the “transfer of club activities to the local communities” being promoted by Sakura City.

**Inquiries: Shidō-ka (School Guidance Section) ☎ 484-6185**

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN “LOCAL TRANSFER OF CLUB ACTIVITIES”?

The local transfer of club activities means that the club activities of public Jr. High School carried out on holidays, which have mainly run by the school, will be separated from the school and transferred to local clubs and organizations. In Sakura City, these activities are called “local transfer clubs”. The number of students at Jr. High Schools in the city has decreased to 3,926 in 2024. This decrease has caused various issues, such as “there are no club activities of the student’s choice at the school they attend” and “there are not enough members to form a team”.



In addition, the burden of teaching without the specialized knowledge or experience of teachers in the field, as well as long working hours, have become issues that should be addressed as part of work style reforms. The transfer of club activities to local areas aims to ensure opportunities for children to engage in a variety of activities while promoting the development of an environment that can be sustained in the future.

### SAKURA CITY’S EFFORTS

In the city, starting 2024, the transition of club activities to local communities on holidays was implemented at one sports club in each of the 11 Jr. High Schools in the city. Instructors dispatched from a contractor hired by the city instruct students in each sport while sharing information with the teachers who supervise the club activities and with the parents in charge of weekday clubs.

In addition to the current activities, in fiscal year 2025, the city plans to divide the area into six districts (Sakura, Usui, Ino, Shizu, Shizu Minami, Nanbu/Nego) and establish “District Clubs and District Activities” that will integrate clubs and club activities within the same district. In fiscal year 2026, it is planned to implement district transfer on holidays for all club activities except for a few.



### WE AIM TO CREATE A NEW STYLE OF CLUB ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN



Based on the guidelines, efforts to “transfer club activities to local areas” are underway nationwide. Sakura City aims to transition all holidays club activities (except for some) to local areas by fiscal year 2026. In addition, to allow children to have a wide range of experiences, there are plans to hold mobile classes led by sports instructors and experience-based community events for participants in the local transition clubs. We believe that in order to expand children’s options, preserve places for their activities and ensure opportunities to engage in sports and cultural activities, it is essential to create an environment with the support of society as a whole. Moving forward, with the help of the community, we will consider the best framework suited to the realities of schools and local areas for the future of our children, aiming to realize a new form of club activities.

# "EACH COLOR, EACH SHAPE"

## SAKURA CITY PARTNERSHIP / FAMILYSHIP OATH SYSTEM BEGINS

Towards a city where everyone can live the life they desire! The shape of family and love varies from person to person. In order to respect diverse ways of life and to support the desire to "walk together with the people you love", a new system will be launched in April. Let's also think together about sexual diversity LGBTQ+  
**Inquiries: Jiji Jinken Suishin-ka (Community Affairs / Human Rights Section) ☎ 484-1948**

### WE HAVE CREATED A GUIDEBOOK!

It contains detailed procedures and a Q&A section. The guidebook is available at the section in charge and can also be viewed on the city's website →



In recent years, the importance of respecting the diversity of each individual has become more widely recognized and interest in sexual diversity has also increased. The city will launch the Sakura Partnership and Familyship Oath System to support everyone, regardless of gender, to live their own lives with their important partners and families.

### WHAT CHANGES WHEN YOU TAKE THE OATH?

Unlike the marriage system, this system does not have any legal effect (such as inheritance or tax deductions), but by having the city officially recognize the couple as partners (family), it aims to eliminate difficulties in daily life as well as prejudice from those around them.

- ★ It will be easier to explain to those around you that they are an important partner (family member).
- ★ You will be able to change the relationship listed on your resident registration card to "related person".
- ★ You will be able to apply for Sakura Municipal Housing and Chiba Prefectural Housing.
- ★ In addition, private businesses may already be offering the following services. (Please contact each business for details):
  - ◆ Family discounts for mobile phone charges, etc.
  - ◆ Designation of beneficiary for life insurance.
  - ◆ Income combination for mortgages and joint liability.
  - ◆ Etc.

### SO THAT YOUR WORDS DON'T HURT ANYONE

- ◆ You may be hurting someone without realizing it through a casual remark or a difference in your attitude. Think back on everyday situations and think about them.
- ◆ Do you use words like "gay" "lesbian" and "okama" casually? These are discriminatory words. Even if you mean it as a joke, you may be hurting the people around you.
- ◆ Do you make statements like "that sounds masculine/feminine" or "well, they are male/female, after all..."? Let's not judge people based on their gender and respect each person's individuality.
- ◆ Are you talking about things that assume heterosexuality, marriage and childbirth? Be aware that there are people who, due to their own circumstances, "don't want to talk about it" or "find it difficult to answer".

### WHAT IS A PARTNERSHIP?

It's a relationship in which two people promise to be life partners and cooperate with each other financially, emotionally and mentally in their daily lives.



### WHAT IS A FAMILYSHIP?



It's a relationship in which two people in a partnership, or the children or parents of one of them, have committed to live together as a family.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?



Those who meet all of the following criteria are eligible.

- ① Must be 18 years of age or older.
- ② Not having a spouse.
- ③ There is no partnership or family relationship with anyone other than the person making the oath.
- ④ Must be a Sakura City resident or plan to move here within the next three months.
- ⑤ The declarants are not close relatives.
- ⑥ When making a familyship oath, both or one of the parties must have a child or a parent.

### OATH FLOW

① Contact and coordination by phone or email in advance. Please contact us at least 7 days before the date you wish to take the oath. We will arrange the date, time and location of the oath and confirm the necessary documents:

**Jiji Jinken Suishin-ka (Community Affairs / Human Rights Section) ☎ 484-1948**

On weekdays from 8:30 to 17:15

✉ [jichijinken@city.sakura.lg.jp](mailto:jichijinken@city.sakura.lg.jp)

Please include your name and the date you would like to be sworn in. We will respond within 3 business days.

② Partnership/Familyship Oath - Please come to the City Hall with your partner (family) on the scheduled date & time with the necessary documents. No need to be accompanied by children under 15 years old.

③ Issuance of the oath certificate and oath certification card. This will be issued at the counter or mailed to you on the date of your choice, approximately one week after the oath is taken.





# 2025 Sakura Tulip Festival

April 1 (Tue) ~ 20 (Sun) at Sakura Furusato Hiroba (9:00 ~ 16:00)



City's Attractiveness Promotion Section ☎ 484-6146  
Sakura City Tourism Association ☎ 486-6000

This year as well, with the Dutch windmill at the background, 600,000 tulips of about 100 species including some rare varieties found in Japan will spread across Sakura Furusato Hiroba! Come and feel the arrival of spring on the rich nature shores of Imbanuma Lake!

## ACTIVITIES

- ✚ **Digging up of blooming tulip bulbs:** 10 Tulips for 600 Yen.
- ✚ **Sightseeing boat tour on the lake:** Operating on Saturdays and Sundays during the event. Fare: 1,000 Yen for High School students and above. Elementary and Jr. HS students 500 Yen.
- ✚ **Bicycle rental:** Regular bicycle 600 Yen; electric bicycle 1,200 Yen.

## SPRING CANOE SCHOOL

※Application required.

**Dates:** On the following Saturdays: April 19 & 26. May 3 (National Holiday), 10, 17 & 24.

**Venue:** Sakura City Canoe Association Practice Ground.

**Fee:** 1,000 Yen. **Capacity:** 10 people (first-come, first-served basis). **Target:** Students from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Elementary School to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Jr. High School.

For inquiries and reservations, please visit the Canoe Association website ➔

**Section in charge:** Shōgai Supotsu-ka (Sports- For-All Section).



## ACCESS

The surrounding area is expected to be congested. If possible, please use public transportation.

From Keisei Sakura Station, North Exit, you can take either the Sakura City community bus for 200 Yen or the special shuttle Chiba Green Bus for 260 Yen.

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE HOUSEHOLD WASTE SORTING CHART HAS BEGUN

The 2025 edition of the household waste sorting list is being distributed to citizens.

◆Distribution is carried out at public facilities and bulky waste disposal ticket stores.

◆The chart is being sent together with this newsletter. ※Only for those who use the posting service.

For details, please see the city's website ➔

**Inquiries:** Haikibutsu Taisaku-ka (Waste Management Section)

☎484-6149



## FOR YOUR NEW LIFE!

**Please use Sakura City's Official LINE**

Inquiries: Kōhō-ka (Public Relations Section)

☎484-6206

Sakura City's official LINE provides a wide range of information! The recommended points are:

- ① Choose among 7 categories the information you want to know:

- ☒ Disaster and crime prevention.
- ☒ Childcare and education.
- ☒ Medical, health and welfare.
- ☒ Coronavirus.
- ☒ Garbage / environment.
- ☒ Tourism and culture.
- ☒ Others.

- ② Check all the information you want to know at once:

The menu includes many convenient services, such as the "Daily Life Procedure Guide" which provides information procedures required for life events such as moving, marriage and birth as well as child-rearing and the ability to view disaster prevention radio communication history.

③ Advance notification of garbage collection days. You will be notified via LINE of the schedule in advance.

## ADD A FRIEND HERE:

- ◆ Register by ID search:  
Home Add friend ➔ ID search

@sakuracity\_chiba

- ◆ Register with QRC:  
Home Add friend  
➔ Scan QRC



## SAKURA CITY MOBILE LIBRARY

About the "Sakura Oguruma" service



As the mobile library "Sakura Oguruma-go" is new and the vehicle is smaller, the operation method will change from April as follows. For further details, please see the website or the flyer (distributed during tours or at each library).

- ◆ 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week – Tuesday and Wednesday.

The service will focus on "general books" and there will be changes to operating dates, times and locations (please check the website below). In addition, as a general rule, "children's books" will not be available but we encourage you to take advantage of our new "My Order Service".

- ◆ 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> week – Wednesday and Thursday.

The service will focus on "children's books" and will mainly visit schools.

◆ About "My Order Service". In addition to the existing reservation and request service, we now offer a new service where a librarian selects a set of books based on the content of the book you want to read and delivers them to your location. Please let us know your preferences or intended use such as "I want to read a picture book for children aged XX" or "A beginner's book on XX cuisine".

**For further inquiries, please call:**  
**Sakura Toshokan (Sakura City Library)**  
☎485-0106



# VACCINATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025

Inquiries: Kenkō Suishin-ka (Health Promotion Section) ☎ 312-7688

## Regular vaccinations against shingles will begin

**Period:** April 1 (Tue) ~ March 31, 2026 (Tue) **Place:** At cooperating medical institutions within the city and prefecture. **Cost:** For inactivated vaccine 10,000 Yen per dose (2 doses are required to complete the vaccination). For live vaccine 4,000 Yen per dose (The vaccination is completed in 1 dose). ※People receiving welfare benefits can get the vaccination free of charge if they bring their welfare receipt certificate with them when they receive the vaccination.

**Target people:** ❶ Those who will be 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95 and 100 years old or older in fiscal year 2025. ❷ Those who are 60~64 years old on the day of vaccination and have a weakened immune system due to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) which has a significant impact on their daily life. ❖Postcards were sent to those in category ❶ around the end of March. If you are category ❷ and would like to be vaccinated, please contact us. ❖Eligible recipients vary by year. ❖Vaccinations cannot be administered at public expense outside the period. Please see the website for details➡



## Subsidies for voluntary shingles vaccinations will end in fiscal year 2025

**Subsidy amount:** For inactivated vaccine, maximum 5,000 yen per dose (Subsidy up to 2 doses). For live vaccine, maximum 2,000 yen per dose (Subsidy up to 1 dose).

**Target people:** Those who received voluntary vaccinations on or after April 1, 2024 and are 50 years of age or older (excluding those who are eligible for regular vaccinations) or those 18 years of age or older who are at high risk of contracting it. **Expiration date:** March 31, 2026 (Tue). ❖For those who received the vaccination during fiscal year 2024, within one year from the last vaccination date.



## Partial subsidy for rubella vaccination costs

**Subsidy amount:** For rubella vaccine up to 3,000 Yen. For measles-rubella combined vaccine (MR) up to 5,000 Yen. Those who have had a low antibody titer as a result of an antibody test or prenatal checkup in Chiba Prefecture and have received a rubella vaccine or measles-rubella combined vaccine (MR) within one year from the date of vaccination.



## NOTICE FROM THE REGISTRATION & CERTIFICATION SERVICES SECTION (SHIMIN-KA)

From March to April every year, there are many procedures related to transfers such as moving in and out the city, so the Registration & Certification Services Section counters could be very busy leading to longer waiting times.



←List of procedure counters

Check the congestion status →



There are procedures that can be done online or at nearby branch offices, so please feel free to use these options. Additionally, you can check the congestion status (number of people waiting) at the counter anytime by scanning the QRC ➡ using your smartphone or other devices.

## ONLINE MOVING-OUT NOTIFICATION USING YOUR MY NUMBER CARD

If you have a My Number card, you can submit a moving out notification online through My Number Portal when moving to another city, ward, town or village.

**Target people:** Those aged 15 years or older who have a My Number card with a valid electronic certificate and are moving to a city, town or village in Japan.

**Application period:** 30 days before moving date to 10 days after moving date. ※There are cases where application is not eligible, such as moving overseas.

◆Procedures for moving out of the city:



### STEP 1

You can submit a moving-out notification online.



Access My Number Portal using your smartphone, etc.

### STEP 2

Notify us of your planned move-in date online.



Follow the instructions on the screen and enter your application information.

### STEP 3

Submit your moving-in notification in person.



On the date you entered in STEP 2, complete the moving-in procedure at the office you plan to visit.

◆NOTES: Once your moving-out notification is accepted, the electronic certificate on your individual My Number card will expire on the day you move (the day you plan to move out), meaning you will no longer be able to submit applications that require an electronic signature. Please be aware of this if you plan to submit applications electronically using e-Tax, etc. For inquiries, please call:

Shimin-ka (Registration & Certification Services Section) ☎ 484-6121