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Hello Sakura is a free monthly newsletter featuring excerpts from the Japanese language Public Relations newsletter *Kōhō Sakura* (こうほう佐倉) issued by Sakura City. This newsletter is distributed free of charge at public facilities within the city and is also available on the city's website. Additionally, English interpretation services are available for procedures at the counters. Please be sure to make a reservation in advance by phone or email to the Public Relations Section.

## A GROWING NETWORK OF SUPPORT FOR CHILDCARE IN THE COMMUNITY

To ensure that children grow up healthy and that parents can raise their children with peace of mind, a variety of support services will be expanded starting this spring. We introduce initiatives that support children and those raising children, such as systems for mutual support in the community for daily childcare and places for consultation and support when needed.



Childcare Support website "Childcare with Sakura" →

### ❖CREATING A CHILD-FRIENDLY CITY THROUGH MUTUAL SUPPORT: SAKURA CITY FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

The Sakura City Family Support Center is a membership-based childcare support network that connects people who want childcare support (requesting members) with people who can help with childcare (provider members). Some members are "dual members", serving as both requesting and providing services, and the range of services has been expanded since April. Wouldn't you like to join us in fostering warm supportive relationships within the community?

Section in charge: Kodomo Hoiku-ka (Childcare Section)

### ❖FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER Q & A

**Q: When can I use this service?**

**A:** It is mainly available for picking up and dropping off children at daycare facilities, elementary schools, after-school care centers, etc., as well as for childcare before and after these activities.

**Q: What kind of people are "provider members"?**

**A:** These are local residents who are cooperating because they want to be of service to others or to make use of their child-rearing experience.

**Q: How can use this service or become a provider?**

**A:** Prior registration is required. For details, please check our website or contact us.



### ❖WE WILL BE EXPANDING THE SYSTEM STARTING APRIL.

**POINT ①** Expanding the eligible age range to include third year of Junior High School. (Previously, up to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade of elementary school).

**POINT ②** Subsidies for sibling use have been launched. Half-price subsidy for the second and subsequent users in all user households. If siblings use the service within the same month, the child with the highest total usage fee will be considered the first child, and half of the total usage fees for the other children will be subsidized. ※ This cannot be used in conjunction with single-parent subsidies. For details, please visit the website ↗



### ❖WE ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO HELP US!

Are you interested in supporting parents? Why not join us as a "provider member (or dual member)"? No special qualifications are required. Please feel free to contact the Family Support Center.

•**Eligibility requirements for both service provider and member:** To be a Sakura City resident, aged 20 years or older.

•**Compensation:** 700 yen per hour (paid volunteer work). ※Varies depending on the time and day of the week.

Inquiries: Sakura City Family Support Center ☎ 488-1270

### ❖TRAINING FOR ACTIVITIES

Participation in the activities requires attending training. The mandatory training sessions held from May to July before the start of activities are as follows. For details on the training, please visit the city's website.

**Dates & Time:** ①May 20 (Wed), ②June 23 (Tue), ③July 21 (Tue). The sessions start at 9:30 on each day.

**Training sessions content and place:** ①"On Child Abuse" at Millennium Center Sakura. ②"Emergency Life Support" at the Chūo Kominkan (Central Community Center). ③"Safety, Accident Prevention and Prenatal/Postnatal Support" at Kenkō Kanri Center (Health Management Center). ※Activities and trainings are conducted in Japanese.

### ❖WE SPOKE TO SOME OF OUR MEMBERS!

◆"As someone who understands the difficulties of raising children, I wanted to help in any way I could, so I became a member of both organizations. It makes me very happy when I see the children smiling more often, witness their growth and receive words of gratitude from their parents after meeting many times. The center respects the wishes of its members and has a system in place to provide support when needed, which allows us to continue our activities without difficulty".

◆"When I was having trouble taking my child to their extracurricular activities due to work, I remembered the Family Support Service I had registered with previously. I heard positive stories from acquaintances who had used the service and above all, I decided to use it because I wanted to do something for my child. It was reassuring to see firsthand how our child gradually got used to the supporter. I also wondered if things might have been a little easier if we had been able to use the service sooner. I'm very grateful!"

# IS YOUR BICYCLE DRIVING SAFE? A TRAFFIC VIOLATION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM BEGINS. PLEASE RECONFIRM THE BICYCLE TRAFFIC RULES.



Bicycles are a familiar and environmentally friendly means of transportation that can be used by a wide range of people, from children to adults, for everyday shopping and commuting to work or school. However, dangerous driving or a lack of safety precautions can lead to serious accidents. This time, we introduce the “Traffic Violation Notification System” that will begin in April, as well as rules for riding a bicycle safely.

**Inquiries: Dōro Ijika (Road Maintenance Section) ☎ 484-6152**

## Current status of bicycle-related traffic accidents.

In 2025, there were approximately 67,500 bicycle-related accidents nationwide (accidents in which the cyclist was either the perpetrator or the victim). Of the fatal and serious accidents that occurred during the period, approximately, approximately three-quarters involved violations of the law on the part of the cyclist.

※ ① →

In light of the current situation regarding bicycle-related accidents, starting April, a new “Traffic Violation Notification System” will be implemented for bicycle riders aged 16 and over, issuing blue tickets while still maintaining the current system of “guidance and warnings” that calls for caution. (In principle, those under the age of 16 will be given a warning).

## Bicycle-related accidents within the jurisdiction of Sakura Police Station in 2025:

- Number of incidents: 103 cases
- Number of bicycle riders killed / injured: 103 riders

※① National Police Agency, “For safe and secure bicycle use - Introduction of a bicycle traffic violation notification system (blue ticket) - (Bicycle Rulebook)”  
[https://www.npa.go.jp/bureau/traffic/bicycle/portal/pdf/guide\\_traffic-rules.pdf](https://www.npa.go.jp/bureau/traffic/bicycle/portal/pdf/guide_traffic-rules.pdf)

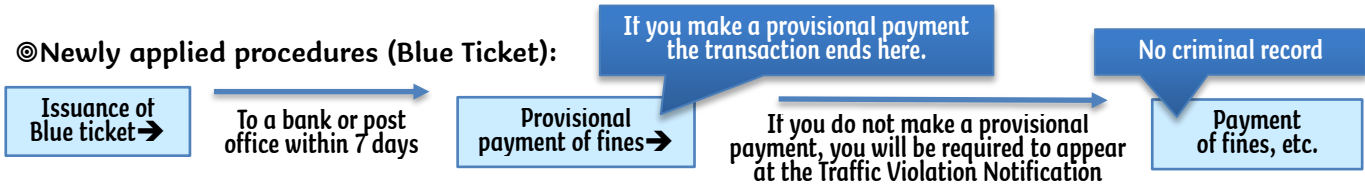
## What will change with the application of the “Traffic Violation Notification System”?

When certain traffic violations are committed, a blue ticket is issued and a fine is notified to be paid. As a result, if you are arrested for a bicycle traffic violation, in addition to the existing criminal procedure (red ticket), a new blue ticket procedure will be applied.

### ◎Traditional criminal procedure (red ticket):



### ◎Newly applied procedures (Blue Ticket):



※If you do not pay the fine, the case will be subject to criminal proceedings.

## Some of the violations for which blue tickets are issued:

<p><b>Entering a blocked railroad crossing</b> Fine: 7,000 Yen</p>	<p><b>Driving with an umbrella</b> Fine: 5,000 Yen</p>	<p><b>Driving with earphones</b> Fine: 5,000 Yen</p>	<p><b>Right-side traffic driving</b> Fine: 6,000 Yen</p>	<p><b>Driving while holding a smartphone</b> Fine: 12,000 Yen</p>	<p><b>Ignoring traffic lights</b> Fine: 6,000 Yen</p>
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## What happens if you repeat the violation?

If you are arrested for any of the 16 violations, including ignoring traffic signals, more than twice within three years, you will be required to take a “bicycle driver training course” ordered by the Public Safety Commission, and if you fail to take the course, you will be fined up to 50,000 Yen.

For more information on the traffic violation notice system, please visit the National Police Agency’s Bicycle Portal Site →



## SAFETY AND COMFORT TIPS FOR CYCLING TO START PRACTICING TODAY!

If each of us is mindful of this on a daily basis, we can use bicycles more safely and comfortably. We introduce here some tips for riding your bicycle, not only before riding and while riding but also after you get off.

### Let's get bicycle insurance !

Be sure to take bicycle insurance (such as bicycle liability insurance) in case of an accident.

## Before riding!

**Let's do inspection and maintenance !** To prevent unexpected accidents, it is important to daily inspect your bicycle.

### Let's wear reflective equipment (reflectors) !

Accidents are more likely to occur during dark hours. Attach reflecting devices to the rear and sides of your bicycle. Wear brightly colored clothing and attach reflective equipment to your clothing

**Let's wear a helmet !** Among those who sustain head injuries while riding a bicycle, the fatality rate is approximately 1.6 times higher if they are not wearing a helmet.

### Let's drive on the road !

As with cars, bicycles should generally ride on the left side of the road. Sidewalk driving is possible when specified by road signs or markings, people under 13 years old, over 70 years old and those with disabilities.

## While riding!

### Let's always check for safety at intersections !

More than half of bicycle accidents occur at intersections. Those with poor visibility and when exiting a narrow road onto a wide road are particularly dangerous.

### Let's park at the designated area !

Bicycles parked outside of designated parking areas can obstruct the passage of other vehicles and pedestrians.

## After riding!

## NATIONAL SPRING TRAFFIC SAFETY CAMPAIGN 2026

~ IF DRIVERS CAN'T SEE US, LET'S RAISE OUR HANDS ~

Period: April 6 (Mon) ~ 15 (Wed)

Zero Traffic Accident Death Day: April 10 (Fri)

The National Traffic Safety Campaign is held four times a year to prevent traffic accidents. The city is working with the prefecture and police to conduct awareness-raising activities on the streets. The campaign will focus on raising awareness of safe driving, including promoting understanding of traffic rules for bicycles and other vehicles, promoting helmet wearing, ensuring the safety of pedestrians including children and eliminating drunk driving and using smartphones while driving.

Inquiries: Dōro Ijika (Road Maintenance Section) ☎ 484-6152



## Sakura City High School scholarships program

Kyōiku Sōmu-ka (General Educational Affairs Section) ☎ 484-6182



The city grants non-repayable scholarships to High School students and other educational institutions who are facing financial difficulties in continuing their studies. Eligible students are those who fall under all of the following ① ~ ⑤ criteria:

- ① Living in Sakura City;
- ② Graduated from Jr. High School, etc. and enrolled in High School, etc. within four years from the new fiscal year.
- ③ Have earned a grade point average of all the subjects of 3.0 or higher on the 5 grade evaluation system during the third year of Junior High School and is motivated to learn.
- ④ Family income in the previous year was less than 1.3 times the welfare assistance standard, and deemed to have financial difficulties in attending Senior High School in this fiscal year.
- ⑤ The principal of the Junior High School from which the student attended must recommend the student.

**Amount granted:** Up to 80,000 Yen per year. ※(Please note that if the High School enrollment support fund by Chiba Prefecture is paid at the same time, the students are not eligible for grant or the amount equivalent to the payment could be reduced).

**Application deadline (1<sup>st</sup> period):** By May 1, 2026 (Fri). Applications after the 1<sup>st</sup> period deadline will be accepted anytime until December 25 (Fri). In addition, those who move in from outside the city after April, we will accept applications until March 31, 2027 (Wed).

**Applications:** The application form can be downloaded from the City's website ↗ Please send the application form and required documents by mail or submit in person to: City Hall, *Kyōiku Sōmu-ka* (General Educational Affairs Section) ☎ 285-8501. ※For more details, please visit the website or contact us.

## FOR YOUR NEW LIFE!

### Please use sakura city's official LINE

Sakura city's official LINE account provides a wide range of information including Sakura city events, child-rearing resources and disaster preparedness updates. Please feel free to use it!



Register as a friend here ↓  
**Register by ID search:**  
Home add friend → ID search  
**Register with QR code:**  
Home add friend → Scan QR

ID

QR CODE

@sakuracity\_chiba



Inquiries: Kōhō-ka (Public Relations Section) ☎ 484-6206

## RECOMMENDED POINTS

### ① You can choose the information you want to know (7 categories).

- Disaster prevention/crime prevention information.
- Childcare/education information.
- Medical, health and welfare information.
- New Coronavirus information.
- Garbage/environmental information.
- Tourism and cultural information.
- Other municipal information.



### ② Check all the information you want to know at once.

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

### ③ Advance notification of garbage collection dates.

You will receive a notification of the schedule in advance via LINE.



## ROUTINE VACCINATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026

### Common matters:

**Vaccination period:** April 1 (Wed) ~ March 31, 2027 (Wed). **Place:** At cooperative medical institutions within the city and prefecture. **Fees:** Unless otherwise stated, services are free of charge when using the city's pre-examination form.

### ◆ Vaccination against RSV (Respiratory syncytial virus) infection (maternal-child immunization vaccine) →

**Target people:** Pregnant women who are between 28 weeks 0 days and 36 weeks 6 days pregnant at the time of vaccination.



### ◆ Second dose of the measles-rubella (M R) combined routine vaccination. →

**Target people:** Preschool/kindergarten senior class children (born between April 2, 2020 ~ April 1, 2021)



### ◆ Japanese encephalitis routine vaccination (transitional measures)

**Target people:** Those born between April 2, 2006 and April 1, 2007 under 20 years old at the time of vaccination) who missed the opportunity to be vaccinated due to the suspension of vaccinations.

### ◆ Routine vaccination against shingles.

**Target people:** ① Those who will turn 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95 and 100 years old in fiscal year 2026.

② Those who are 60~64 years old on the day of vaccination and whose immune system is weakened due to HIV, causing significant difficulties in daily life.

**Fees:** Inactivated vaccine: 10,000 yen per dose (2 doses are required, with an interval of at least 2 months between doses). Live vaccine: 4,000 yen per dose (1 dose required).

※For those in category ①, a postcard was sent around the end of March. For those in category ②, if you wish to receive the vaccination, please contact us. →

※If you are receiving public assistance, please present your recipient certificate at the time of vaccination. If you do so, it's free of charge.

※Vaccinations cannot be received at public expense outside of the designated period.



### ◆ Routine vaccination against pneumococcal infection in the elderly →

**Target people:** Those who have never received the routine pneumococcal vaccination for the elderly and who meet the following criteria ① or ② on the day of vaccination.

① People aged 65 years old. ② Individuals aged 60~64 with heart, kidney or respiratory disorders, or immune system disorders who possess a Class 1 disability certificate.

**Fee:** 6,000 Yen.

※If you fall under category ①, we will send you a pre-examination form around the end of the month in which your birthday falls. If you fall under category ② and wish to be vaccinated, please contact us.

※Starting fiscal year 2026, the vaccine used has been changed to the 20-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV20)



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