

September 2020

EiGo Koriyama!

Monthly news and information about Koriyama City in English

Typhoon Season

In recent years, typhoons in Japan have become more frequent and severe. Last year, Koriyama too faced heavy damage due to Typhoon Hagibis. While the typhoon season in Japan is from July to October, September and October typically see the strongest typhoons. **Page 2** of this month's EiGo Koriyama features a re-issue of July's typhoon-special with tips to prepare yourself.



MANDATORY: National Census 2020

Every 5 years, the government organizes a **national census**, or *kokusei-chousa*. Anyone living in Japan for over 3 months has to submit their response, incl. foreign residents (**participation is mandatory**). Information collected is used for policy-making and providing better public services. All information is kept strictly anonymous, and will not be shared with other government agencies. Starting **Sep. 14th**, census-examiners will visit your home to deliver personal census forms, either in person or in your mailbox. You can either fill in and submit the paper form, or use the ID and password listed on the form to fill it out online.

English-language instructions for both online submissions, and the paper form are available on the website listed below.

Online submissions: Sep. 14 - Oct. 7

Paper submissions: Oct. 1 - Oct. 7

Note: **be careful of fraud!** Be sure to check whether the examiners are wearing their Examiner's Certificate. No money involved in the census. If you are asked to transfer money, or submit your bank information, refuse, and inform the police.

WEB: www.kokusei2020.go.jp/en



KIEA Japanese Language Course

The Koriyama International Exchange Association (KIEA) organizes a **Japanese language course** for foreign residents. Enjoy studying Japanese for daily life with residents from many different countries. Apply now for the next course-period: **Sep. 16th ~ Nov 19th** (10 classes) (Wednesday 10:00~11:30 or Thursday 19:00~20:30). For the Wednesday morning class, the ability to read/write Hiragana/Katakana and to understand the teacher's instructions in easy Japanese is required. Please apply by the 14th of September. Applicants will be notified in case of cancellation due to COVID-19.

Venue: Sogo Fukushi Center (behind City Hall)

Fee: ¥3,000 for 10 classes

Please apply by e-mail or phone (EN/JP)

or the online form at <https://goo.gl/5gRKG2>

E-mail: intl-salon@city.koriyama.lg.jp

TEL: 024-924 2970 (JP/EN)



Koriyama City's Multilingual Portal features a page with all English-language information on COVID-19 from the city administration, such as recent developments, video messages from the mayor, links to multilingual information material, and much more.

www.city.koriyama.lg.jp/multilingual/23413.html

For information, questions or tips, contact:

Koriyama City, International Policy Division

E-mail: kokusai-kouryuu@city.koriyama.lg.jp

TEL: (024) 924-3711

The EiGo Koriyama!-newsletter is available in print at various Koriyama City facilities, or online at tinyurl.com/KoriyamaEigo. Please subscribe to the monthly e-mail newsletter at tinyurl.com/EiGo-Mailinglist to receive the newsletter in your inbox. EiGo Koriyama is published by the Koriyama City International Policy Division. Koriyama City is not liable for any errors in the information included.



Koriyama City Music Day (Ongaku-no-hi)

As a music-city, the Junior Chamber International (JCI) Koriyama, together with Koriyama City, organizes an annual Music Day. The event is held over several places throughout the city (the main venue being Koriyama Station), and features many local musicians and bands. For the specifics and the program, visit the official website listed below.

Date: Oct. 4th (10:00 - 17:00)

Places: Koriyama Station West-Exit Square, Usui Dept., Tohoku Expressway Asaka Parking Area (south-bound), Myukaru Gakuto-kan, Kita-Ichi Bld., Tsuchiya Hospital

WEB: www.ongakunohi.jp



Cycle Aid Japan 2020 in Koriyama

Cycle Aid is a cycling event that is held annually since 2012, to support the revitalization of Tohoku after the 3.11 disaster. Cyclists from all over the country participate, and ride various courses along and around Lake Inawashiro. This year, due to COVID-19, there will only be one course, and participation will be limited to people living in of Tohoku's 6 prefectures. The event will be held on the 10th of October, starting at 8:00 at the Koriyama Ice-Skating Rink in Bandai-Atami (registration starts at 6:30). Participation is limited to 500 people, so please submit your entry as soon as possible.

Date: Oct. 10th (Sat.) (depending on weather conditions)

Fee: ¥5,000 (¥3,000 for junior-high school students)

WEB: www.cycle-aid-japan.jp

IF YOU SUSPECT YOU MAY HAVE COVID-19

Fukushima Prefecture's has a dashboard page for all the necessary information, such as what organizations to contact, latest statistics on COVID-19 in Fukushima, etc.

<https://fukushima-covid19.web.app/en>

If you require **on-the-phone interpreting** (11 different languages), please contact the **Fukushima Pref. International Exchange Association** at 024-524-1316 (Tuesday - Saturday, 9:00 - 17:15)

About Typhoons (and other disasters)

In Japan, **typhoons** are a regular occurrence in the months **from May to October**. This means it is all the more important to take good precautions, such as making sure you have access to good information sources, preparing an evacuation kit, and knowing how, when and where to evacuate in the case of a disaster. The tips below apply to typhoons, but may also be useful in the event of other disasters, such as earthquakes, fires, etc.



Information, Links & Apps



Emergency Preparedness Guidebook

Koriyama has an Emergency Guidebook in 4 languages (Japanese, English, Chinese and Korean), featuring evacuation centers, tips, preparedness measures and contacts. Download from tinyurl.com/BosaiHandbook, and/or get a free print copy from Koriyama City Hall (available at the International Policy Division and International Exchange Salon).

Safety Tips (Japan National Travel Association)

The **Safety Tips** app offers real-time info, auto-translates emergency messages issued for your area and a map with the evacuation centers. You never know when a emergency situation may occur, so have it ready on your phone.

WEB: www.jnto.go.jp/safety-tips/eng/app.html



Japan Meteorological Agency

The JMA's website includes the latest updates, live maps and warnings, all accessible in English.

WEB: www.jma.go.jp/jma/indexe.html



Bousai Koriyama

Koriyama City's Disaster Prevention Website, listing the test Koriyama-specific info and updates, available with auto-translation. WEB: bousai.koriyama-fukushima.jp

NHK Multilingual Emergency Updates

In the event of a disaster, national broadcaster NHK will start a special broadcast on their main channel (Ch. 1). NHK also has a multilingual emergency page with the latest news and updates.

WEB: www.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld-blog

Emergency Numbers

The number for emergency services (both the fire dept. and ambulances) is **119**. For the police, call **110**. The Koriyama Region Fire Dept. Offers **on-the-phone interpreting service**. Call 119 and state that you would like to speak in English (for example: 'English please' or 'eigo de onegai- shimasu') to connect to an interpreter.



New Emergency Alert System (2019)

In 2019 a new system for emergency alerts was introduced, specifying 5 emergency levels and what to do. Note that these alerts differ per area of the city. Upward from level 3 you may receive alerts on your phone.



Typhoon-Vocabulary

| Japanese | Reading | Meaning |
|----------|--------------|-------------------|
| 台風 | taifu | typhoon |
| 天気予報 | tenkiyohō | weather forecast |
| 風速 | fūsoku | wind speed |
| 予想進路 | yosō-shinro | projected path |
| 直撃 | chokugeki | direct hit |
| 警報 | keihō | alert |
| 避難 (する) | hinan-suru | evacuate |
| 避難所 | hinanjo | Evacuation Center |
| 大雨 | ōame | heavy rain |
| 暴風 | bōfū | strong wind |
| 水位 | sui'i | water level |
| 堤防決壊 | teibō-kekka | levee-/dam break |
| 洪水 | kōzui | flood |
| 土砂崩れ | dosha-kuzure | mudslide |

Other Tips:

• Charge your devices

When a disaster hits, there is a chance of power outages. Charge all mobile devices to keep access to information.

• Fill your bathtub

As drainage systems and the water supply may be damaged, it is advisable to clean your bathtub, and fill it with water to ensure a reserve of clean water, e.g. for washing clothes and cleaning.

• Bring your belongings inside

Winds during typhoons can become extremely strong. Any objects placed outside, such as on your balcony or garden may be blown away and cause further damage, so be sure to bring all these objects inside for the duration of the typhoon.

• Take photos after a disaster

In the event of a disaster, should your house or apartment be flooded, it is important to first take photo evidence. This will be essential when filing for insurance and support funds.

| Alert Level | Recommended action | Emergency Information | Issued by: |
|----------------|---|---|--|
| Level 5 | Take immediate action to ensure your safety | Disaster Alert | (the mayor of) Koriyama City (also broadcast over the municipal PA system) |
| Level 4 | Evacuate from possibly dangerous places (all citizens) | Evacuation Order | |
| Level 3 | Evacuation order to the elderly, people with disabilities, infants and those who support them (all other citizens should make preparations for a possible evacuation) | Evacuation Preparation/ Evacuation Order for the Elderly etc. | |
| Level 2 | Prepare to evacuate, and check your evacuation route on the hazard map. | Weather/Disaster Advisories | Issued by the Fukushima Meteorological Office (Japan Meteorological Agency, JMA) |
| Level 1 | Keep track of the latest disasters- and weather information, and be prepared for a possible emergency. | Possibility of weather advisories | |