

July 2020

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EiGo

Koriyama!

Monthly news and information about Koriyama City in English

Drive-in Festa Koriyama

Due to Covid-19, the regular annual festivals like the Summer Festa and Uneme Matsuri have been canceled. But to keep spirits high, on the **14th and 15th of August** the Drive-in Theater Fukushima Organizing Committee is organizing **Drive-in Festa Koriyama 2020**. A **crowdfunding campaign** for this new event is currently underway (ends on the 22nd of July). Organized at the large parking lot of the **Koriyama City Culture Park**, the festival will feature a great number of different activities. Biggest eye-catcher is the American-style **Drive-in Theater** showing a number of movies you can watch from the comfort of your own our car. Confirmed films are **The Castle of Cagliostro** (1979) and **La La Land** (2016). During the day, the event will feature **Drive-In Foodfes**, with various drive-through food stalls of local restaurants and producers. **Tickets** are already available through the crowdfunding page, as well as ways to support the event, even if you are not able to go yourself. Note that the prices are **per car**, rather than per person. For the specifics like ticket prices, timetables etc., check out the event page below.



Date: Aug. 14th and 15th
WEB: driveintheater-f.com



Early-morning Tai Chi Practice

The Koriyama City Japan-China Friendship Association is organizing a chance for you to experience the tranquility of Tai Chi for yourself. Every Sunday for 5 weeks (depending on weather conditions), the participants will assemble on the parking lot of the Koriyama City Chuo Library, at the early hour of 6:45, for a 30 minute session. You will learn the basics of Tai-Chi 24-Form Movements, as well as breathing exercises. Participation is free, no reservation required.

Dates: July 19th & 26th, and August 2nd, 9th and 16th
Time: 6:45 - 7:15 AM
Location: Koriyama City Chuo Library Parking Lot
Organizer: Japan-China Friendship Association (024-931-4100)(JP)



Japanese Language Course for Foreign Residents

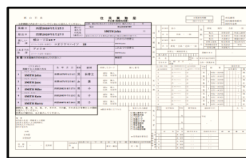
The Koriyama International Exchange Association (KIEA) organizes a **Japanese language course** for foreign residents. Enjoy studying Japanese with residents from many different countries. Apply now for the next course-period: **Sep. 16th ~ Nov 19th** (10 classes) (Wednesday 10:00~11:30 or Thursday 19:00~20:30). The Wednesday morning class requires 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)



Citizens Registration Form

When you move to, within- or from Koriyama, you need to file a application for the city registration (and for foreign nationals with mid- to long-term visas, to have your address registered on your residence card). Usually, you need to fill in a form at the administration desk, but why not save yourself some time and fill in the application form digitally? Koriyama City's website has an Excel form you can use to fill in your information and print-out your form. Download the file at tinyurl.com/CityAdminForm and read the instructions on how to fill in and print your form.



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

Video-message to Koriyama's Essential Workers

In order to express thanks to all the essential workers that supported and are still supporting the society through the COVID-19 crisis, Koriyama City made a video with messages from citizens. The music for the video is provided by Koriyama City's very own popstars 'GReeeen', with their latest hit 'Hoshikage no Yell' (opening-song to the popular NHK morning tv-show Yell). Check out the video on the official city YouTube channel: youtu.be/w8EEgIZU6iU



Community Centers Equipped with Pocketalk

If you need to file an application with city hall, but you are not sure where to go, or received mail from the city but are not sure what it is about, you can visit your local community center for help. All community centers are now equipped with Pocketalk auto-translate devices, which can translate both spoken languages and even scanned text. Find your nearest community center at tinyurl.com/KoriyamaMap.



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)

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.



About Typhoons (and other disasters)

In Japan, **typhoons** are a regular occurrence in the months **from May to October**. Forming in the Pacific Ocean, some of them make their way to Japanese soil. In recent years, typhoons have become heavier and more frequent. Currently we are seeing the devastation that heavy rain can bring, especially in Kyushu. Last year, Koriyama City too was hit severely by torrential rain and the subsequent flooding of the Abukuma- and Ouse Rivers. 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.



Emergency Preparedness Guidebook

Koriyama has an Emergency Preparedness Guidebook in 4 languages (Japanese, English, Chinese and Korean). It lists a map with all evacuation centers and shelters, tips and emergency preparedness measures, and emergency contacts. It is a great addition to your emergency kit. Download it from the tinyurl.com/BosaiHandbook, and/or get a free print copy from Koriyama City Hall (available at the International Policy Division and the International Exchange Salon).

Prepare an Emergency Kit

An emergency situation may force you to evacuate. It is advised to have an emergency kit ready at your house, that includes items that you may need during your time at a shelter, as you may need to spend some time there. Especially now with COVID-19, it is extra important to prepare goods that will keep you safe. For an checklist of useful items, check the page on evacuation kits from the Koriyama City Multilingual Emergency Guide (see above).



Koriyama City Hazard Map

Local governments in Japan prepare so-called **'Hazard Maps'** for their citizens that list the risks of potential natural disasters such as flooding, landslides, forest fires, etc. Look up your own house, place of work etc., and see how vulnerable they are to disasters. This info is critical especially when planning evacuation routes, so be sure to include a copy in your evacuation kit and/or have the PDF-version on your phone.

PDF: tinyurl.com/KoriyamaHazardMap



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. has a contract with an **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'). You will be connected to an interpreter.



New Emergency Alert System (2019)

In 2019 a new system for emergency alerts was introduced, specifying 5 levels for the severity of emergencies, and necessary steps that should be taken by citizens in such an event. On the chart below you can see what the levels mean. Note that these alerts differ per area of the city, as some areas are more prone to disasters than others. Upward from level 3 you may receive alerts on your phone, and the city will broadcast alert messages over the city's PA system.



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 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	

Apps & Links

• Safety Tips (JNTO)

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



iOS: tinyurl.com/JNTO-iOS

Android: tinyurl.com/JNTO-Android

• NHK World

In the event of a disaster, national broadcaster NHK will start a special emergency broadcast on their main channel (channel 1). You can switch to English during emergency broadcasts. NHK World (NHK's international service) will also provide the latest info.



iOS/Android: www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/app/

• Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA)

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 latest Koriyama-specific info and updates, available with auto-translation.



WEB: bousai.koriyama-fukushima.jp



Other Tips:

• Charge your devices

When a disaster hits, there is a chance of power outages. In order to keep access to information, charge your mobile devices such as your phone, laptop/tablet and mobile batteries/power banks.

• 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 water for washing, cleaning etc. for a few days.

• Bring your belongings inside

Typhoons bring extremely strong winds. Any objects placed outside, such as on your balcony or in your garden may be blown away and cause further damage, so make 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.