



OKINAWA CITY Newsletter

January 2022 Vol. 22 No. 1

Okinawa-shi Yakusho Bunka Geino Ka (B1) 26-1 Nakasone-Cho, Okinawa City, Okinawa 904-8501

New Year's Greeting From Mayor

Happy New Year to All Residents of Okinawa City.

Okinawa City, a Dynamic City

Happy New Year!

I hope that all of you are having a glorious new year.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all citizens and businesses for their cooperation and support in preventing the spread of the new coronavirus infection over the past year.

We will continue to closely monitor the trends of infectious diseases to determine the timeliness and effectiveness of the measures, and will work diligently to achieve a balance between infection prevention and economic recovery.

Last year, at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, a global sporting event held in Japan, Mr. Ryo Kiyuna from our city won the gold medal in individual karate kata, and Mr. Hirokazu Ueyonabaru won two bronze medals. The French men's volleyball team, which held a training camp in our city prior to the event, also won a gold medal, which was a very happy and proud moment for our city, which is a sports convention city.

In addition, "OKINAWA ARENA" and "MOTORSPORT MULTI FIELD OKINAWA" have been put into service one after another, and we expect that they will serve as a catalyst for the promotion of our city's industries and the local economy in the future.

Moreover, in order to promote the digitization of government administration, we have appointed a Chief Information Officer (CIO) and a Digital Promotion Officer, and we have declared ourselves a "Zero Carbon City", aiming for virtually zero carbon emissions for a sustainable future.



In order to provide children with opportunities to receive medical care with peace of mind, the city has been subsidizing children's outpatient medical expenses since October 2021, prior to the prefectural government.

In 2022, the postponed professional basketball B League All-Star Game will finally be held at the Okinawa Arena. It is expected to attract many fans from all over the country and make the city very lively, and it is also a great opportunity to communicate the charm of our city. We will use this experience to build momentum for the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023, which will be held at the same arena next year, and the entire city will work together to welcome guests from Japan and abroad.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Okinawa's return to the mainland Japan. As the core city of the Chubu region, our city will continue to play the role in the future, and will continue to grow and lead our prefecture. I would like to take this opportunity to express my best wishes for the New Year by asking for the further understanding and cooperation of the citizens of Okinawa City as we continue to work together as a staff, valuing the voices of the community.



Sachio Kuwae
Okinawa City Mayor

	Total Population: 143,077	[Japanese Population] Male: 68,496 Female: 72,835	
		[Foreign Population (57 Countries)] Male: 1,074 Female: 672	

The Okinawa City Hall's *Bunka Geino Ka* (the Culture & Traditional Arts Division) selects excerpts from the city's public relations newsletter (*Koho Okinawa*) and publishes them in English and Chinese in hopes of better serving our community of residents who may have difficulty reading or understanding Japanese. **These articles are translated by the Culture & Traditional Arts Division staff and are provided for reference only. Administrative services are provided in Japanese only (unless otherwise indicated).** For English support, please email: kokusai@city.okinawa.lg.jp. You can also view monthly issues of the newsletters and other information about living in Okinawa City by clicking the ENGLISH/中文 link on the Okinawa City website: <http://www.city.okinawa.okinawa.jp/>

Administrative Events & Announcements

▶ For Those Who Have Not Been Vaccinated Against COVID-19

We are now accepting appointments for the first or second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine for all citizens aged 12 years and older. In addition, mass vaccination for additional vaccination (3rd dose) is scheduled to start around February, and those eligible for the 3rd vaccination are those who have passed **approximately 8 months** from the date of completion of the 2nd vaccination.

Based on the time between the end of the second vaccination and the third vaccination, those who wish to be vaccinated should get vaccinated at an individual medical institution as soon as possible.

What is additional vaccination (3rd dose)?: The additional vaccine is designed to re-establish the immunity produced by the body and maintain its effectiveness in preventing the onset and severity of disease.

According to the notification from the government (dated November 16, 2021), the vaccination period ends at the **end of September 2022**, so those who wish to receive additional vaccinations need to complete the second dose of vaccinations **by January 2022**. To make a reservation or any questions,

Call Center: 098-923-2401 / 8:30-17:00 (Mon-Sat) *Closed on Sundays and Japanese holidays.

*English and Korean is available at the call center.

▶ Certification Of Tax Deduction For Those With A Disability

If you are at least 65 years old and certified that you apply to a certain level of physical disability or dementia, you may be approved to be issued a 障害者控除対象者認定書 (tax deduction certificate for persons with a disability), which will allow you to receive a deduction during the income tax filing process in 2022.

Sending a Tax Deduction Certificate: In order to avoid congestion at the counter, a "Tax Deduction Certificate for Persons With a Disability" will be sent to those who are eligible in early February.

Eligibility: Those who are categorized under level 4-13 (person who are taxed for resident tax in 2021) in the income category for long-term care insurance premium the certificate will be mailed in the beginning of February.

For others, and those who need this certificate for filing taxes, please come to the *Kaigo Hoken Ka* (Long-term Care Insurance Division) window for assistance with the application process.

Required Documents: Applicant's ID (Resident card, driver's license, health insurance certificate, etc.).

*If people other than the applicant self or their family will apply on behalf, the power of attorney will be required. The application form is available at the service counter.

※If you already have certificate such as *Shogaisha Techo* (for physical/mental) or *Ryoiku Techo* (for intellectual), you can submit your disability certificate to receive tax deductions. You do not need to apply for this service.

※If someone other than your relatives will be applying on your behalf, please prepare a power of attorney.

(Please get an application form from the division in charge.)

Contact: Long-term Care Insurance Division ext. 2085, 3145

Under the Income Tax Act and the Local Tax Act, even if you have not been issued a disability certificate (physical or mental) or a medical care certificate, if you are certified to be a person with a disability, **you can receive a deduction for income tax and inhabitant tax as a "deduction for the disabled"**.

▶ New 20-year-old Citizens! You Have Reached the Age to Join the National Pension System

Anyone who lives in Japan between age 20 and 59 have the obligation to join the National Pension System.

-National Pension Enrollment Notice-

If you have turned 20 years old, you will receive a "National Pension Enrollment Notice," "National Pension Enrollment and Premiums Guide (Pamphlet)," "National Pension Premium Payment Form," etc. from the Japan Pension Service.

The "Pension Handbook," which will be sent to you separately, is necessary to confirm your premium payment and to receive your pension in the future. Please keep it in a safe place.

*If you are enrolled in an employee pension insurance plan at your workplace, you will not be enrolled in the National Pension Plan.

*If you are a dependent of your spouse (who is a member of the Employees' Pension Insurance or Mutual Aid Association) when you turn 20, please contact your spouse's workplace and apply for the National Pension Plan Category 3.

-Not Only for Post-Retirement Years -

The National Pension System supports you not only when you get old, but it also has the following benefits:

<Disability Pension Benefit>

Provided if you become disabled as a result of an accident or disease.

<Pension Benefit for the Bereaved>

Eligible dependents, such as your child or spouse, will be qualified to receive this benefit when you pass away.

However, please note that if you do not follow the necessary procedures and leave your insurance premiums unpaid, you may not be able to receive these pensions.

★If you are financially unable to pay your insurance premiums

There is an exemption system, a grace period system, and a special payment system for students. Please contact below for details.

Koza Pension Office : 098-933-2267

Shimin Ka (市民課 Residential Division) Ext. 2133/ 2134



Okinawa City Hall will be **Closed** on **January 10 (Mon)** for a Coming-of Age Day as Japanese holiday.

New Year's Greetings in Japanese -A Happy New Year!

新年 あけまして おめでとうございます (Shin-nen Akemashite Omedeto Gozaimasu)



► Tax Deduction Certificate for Medical Expenses Spent on Adult Diapers

If you are bedridden and are certified as “long-term-care-need” in Okinawa City, you may be able to get this tax deduction certificate for medical expenses spent on adult diapers issued at the city hall if this is your second year or more to apply for medical deductions.

Eligibility: You have a doctor’s statement of “Bedridden Level B1~C2” and “Possibility of Incontinence.”

*For those who are certified as “long-term-care need” for another 13 months, the doctor’s statement from the previous year or two years ago is acceptable.

NOTE: If this is the first time you are applying for the deduction, please consult with your doctor to receive a “Certificate of Diaper Use.”

Contact: Kaigo Hoken Ka 介護保険課 (Long-term Care Insurance Division) Ext. 3167

► Get Your Health Checkup Every Year !

Do not miss this chance!

The Public Health Check-up in FY2021 Requires Reservation (Reservation accepted at first come first serve bases)

Reservation Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30-17:00

*Except for weekends and Japanese Holidays.

*If you make a reservation at least two weeks in advance to the date of checkup, we will mail an examination kit which is needed for the checkup to your resident.

Contact for Reservation:
Shimin Kenko Ka (Residents Health Division)
Ext.2245/2246

If you want to get the checkup individually at the hospital, the list of medical facility which you can use the coupon is enclosed as a checkup guide.

		Date	Venue	Capacity
Jan.	15	Sat	Okinawa City Hall	200
	16	Sun		200
	26	Wed	Kariyushi En	120
Feb.	1	Tue	Kariyushi En	120
	8	Tue		120
	16	Wed	Okinawa City Budo-kan	150
	17	Thu		150
	23	Wed		150
Mar.	24	Thu		150
	16	Wed	Okinawa City Budo-kan	150
17	Thu	150		

► Have You Had a Cancer Screening?

If a you forgoes a checkup to prevent infection with COVID-19, etc., and leaves a period of time before the next checkup, there is a high possibility that cancer that could have been detected at an early stage will be found in an advanced state.

It is very important to have regular checkups for cancer screening because the target age and intervals for checkups are determined. If you haven't had your checkup yet, we recommend that you do so as soon as possible. FY2021 Cancer Screening Coupon is valid until **March 31 (Thursday)**.

How to Receive Checkups: Designated medical institutions (listed on the cancer checkup coupon) or group medical checkup by the city.

Reservation: Residents Health Division TEL: 098-939-3126

► National Health Insurance Premium Payment Notification (postcard) Will be Sent to You

National Health Insurance Premiums Payment Notification (国民健康保険料支払済通知書) is sent to notify the amount of National Health Insurance premiums you paid from January 1 to December 31, 2021.

The amount of National Health Insurance Premiums Payment can be reported as a deduction for social insurance premiums on your tax return or municipal/prefectural tax. Please use it as a reference.

The notification will be mailed to the regular collection recipients (Also for those who paid by account transfer, payment slip, or app payment) in the late January.

Contact: National Health Insurance Division Ext. 2127

► Rakuno Ichi -楽農市 - Get to know more about Okinawa City's primary industry!

January 30 (Sun) 10:00-16:00



This event has been CANCELLED to prevent the spread of COVID-19

Ver. ... or shine!

- **Okinawa City Agricultural Training Center-1F & Open field**
-Exhibition, projection corner, games, lotteries
- **Chanpuru Ichiba**-parking area
-Food trucks will be gathering to satisfy your appetite!

45th Okinawa City Industry Festival & Craft Fair

Date & Time:

January 15 (Sat) 10:00-16:00

January 16 (Sun) 10:00-16:00

This event has been CANCELLED to prevent the spread of COVID-19



► This Month's KANJI 新年-Shin nen 新...Shin /Atara (new) 年...Nen /Toshi (Year)

Example: Atara shii ie

新しい家 (New House) /新しい仕事 (New Job)

Atara shii shigoto

▶ **Please note:**

January is the payment deadline for the following taxes:

Residential Tax (4th term)/**Long-term Care Insurance Premium** (8th term)/**National Health Insurance Premium** (7th term)/**Medical Care for the Elderly Insurance Premium** (7th term). If you use automatic bank transfers, payments will be withdrawn on **January 31**. Make sure you have enough money in your bank account the day before.

▶ **FY 2021 Okinawa City Housing Opening Information (Additional Application)**

Additional applications will be accepted for the rooms that did not receive many applications in the initial application in October 2021.

Those who were unsuccessful in the first round of application and those who are waiting for a vacant room can also apply.

Application Period: January 17 (Mon) - 28 (Fri), 2022
at 6F Public Housing Agency counter.



Name	Layout	Category	Capacity	Vacancy Status※1	Numbers of People Waiting ※2
Awase *With elevator	1LDK	Silver Housing	2 or more	On waiting list	2
Noborikawa	2LDK	Designed for wheel chairs (Household with member of Lower limb impairment grade 2 or higher)	2 or more	2 vacant rooms	0
	3DK	Designed for wheel chairs (Household with member of Lower limb impairment grade 2 or higher)	2 or more	On waiting list	0
Kubota	2LDK	Designed for wheel chairs (Household with member of Lower limb impairment grade 2 or higher)	2 or more	On waiting list	1
Murokawa *With elevator	1LDK	Silver Housing	2 or more	On waiting list	0
	2LDK	General	4 or more	On waiting list	2
	3DK	General	5 or more	On waiting list	2
	3DK	Family with multiple children	4 or more	On waiting list	0

※Please note that we will not be accepting applications for housing other than those listed above. Also, there may be slight changes in the number of rooms available.

※1 On waiting list : There are no vacancies at the moment, so please wait until a vacancy occurs before the expiration date. Applicants will be ranked by lottery, and when a vacancy occurs, the top-ranked applicant will be notified of the eligibility screening process. Please note that you will not be able to move in unless a vacancy occurs within the validity period.

Effective Period: April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

Contact: Okinawa City Hall 6F *Shiei Jutaku Ka*
(City Housing Management Division) TEL: 098-929-3117

▶ **Okinawa City Library News**

Book Readings & Hand Games: Saturdays, January 8, 15 & 22 starting at 3:00 pm.

Days Closed: 1 - 3 (Sat-Mon) for New Year's Holiday, 10 (Mon: Coming of Age Day), 11 (Tue: makeup holiday), 17 (Mon), 24 (Mon), 27 (Thu: inspection), and 31 (Mon).

※Up to 20 books per person.

Address: 2-28-1 Chuo, Okinawa City Korinza Mall (1F) TEL: 098-929-4919



Would you like our newsletters emailed or mailed to you? Let us know!

Email: kokusai@city.okinawa.lg.jp

You can also visit, call or fax us at:

沖縄市役所 文化芸能課 (B1)

26-1 Nakasone-Cho, Okinawa City, Okinawa
Tel: (098) 929-0261 FAX: (098) 923-3485

Visit our website NOW!



Koza International Plaza

Moved to new place!

We are here to support you!

1-7-8 Chuo, Okinawa City (※KIP can be

closed temporarily depending on the COVID-19 situation.)

TEL 080-9850-4667

Mon-Fri : 10:00-21:00* / Sat : 10:00~ 19:00

www.facebook.com/ociakip

Email: kip@ryukyumirai.jp

All services are provided in JAPANESE ONLY (unless otherwise indicated). For postal and emailing services, or any inquiries in ENGLISH, please email: kokusai@city.okinawa.lg.jp

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