

OKINAWA CITY Newsletter

September 2022 Vol. 22 No. 9

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



Announcements

► COVID-19 Vaccination Updates

Takeda's vaccine (Novavax) lowered the target age for vaccination.

On July 22, 2022, the target age for the first (1st and 2nd) vaccination was lowered to "12 years and older".

*Ages 12-15 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Doses & Target Age

1st & 2nd dose: 12 and older

3rd dose: 18 and older

Call Center: 098-923-2401 / 8:30-17:00 (Mon-Sat)

*Closed on Sundays and Japanese holidays.

*English is available at the call center.

► Public Health Checkup



←The **medical examination voucher** enclosed allows you to receive a medical examination at a lower cost than the original cost of the eligible items.

Check Items	Age (F)	Age (M)
Basic Checkup *1	18 and up	18 and up
Stomach Cancer	30 and up	30 and up
Colorectal Cancer	30 and up	30 and up
Lung Cancer	30 and up	30 and up
Hepatitis Virus *3	40 and up	40 and up
Stomach Cancer Risk	40	40
Osteoporosis	18 and up	N/A
Cervical Cancer *2	20 and up	N/A
Breast Cancer *2	40 and up	N/A
Prostate Cancer	N/A	50

*1: For those with social (employment) insurance for 40-74 year olds, please contact your insurer (or workplace).

*2: Those who have not been examined in the previous year (once every two years)

*3: Those who have never had one before.

Contact:
Residents' Health Division (Ext. 2246)

► Traffic Restrictions Due to Road Improvement Work in Ageda Public Housing Complex Line

Due to road improvement work, the following traffic restrictions on city streets are in effect. We apologize for any inconvenience caused by road closures and alternating traffic on one side of the road during the construction period. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Traffic Control Period:

Beginning of September, 2022-March, 2023 (estimate)

Location & Details of Construction: Lawson (3-Chome, Ageda) towards NBC (See the map below)

Contact: Public Road Maintenance Division
TEL: 098-989-9138



**Okinawa City Hall Will be closed on
September 19 (Mon) & 23 (Fri)**
for Japanese holiday (Respect for the Aged Day & Autumnal Equinox Day).



Total Population: 142,791

[Japanese Population] Male: 68,230 Female: 72,748
[Foreign Population (57 Countries)] Male: 1,087 Female: 726



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/>

▶ **Please note:**

September is the payment deadline for the following taxes:

Long-term care insurance premium (4th term)/ **National health insurance premium** (3rd term)/ **Medical care for the elderly insurance premium** (3rd term).

If you use automatic bank transfers, payments will be withdrawn on September 30. Make sure you have enough money in your bank account the day before.

▶ **The Exemption of Pension Premiums Before and After Childbirth**



This exemption system has started in April 2019. The exemption period will be recorded as “paid” and will be reflected on your old-age basic pension amount.

For the exempted period you apply under this system, the amount of benefits received will be reflected as you pay the full amount of pension premium, therefore, even if you have already been approved for exemption from or deferment of National Pension Insurance premiums or special exception for student payment for the period, it will help you to apply to this exemption system.

Eligibility: Category1 insured person of the pension system, and their delivery date was on **February 1, 2019** or later. *Delivery is defined as a birth that happens after 85 days (or more than 4 months) of pregnancy (includes stillbirth/miscarriage/early delivery cases).

Exemption Period: 4 months from the month preceding the month in which the expected date of childbirth or the date of childbirth falls./ In the case of multiple pregnancies, 3 to 6 months before the expected date of delivery or the month in which the date of delivery falls.

Notification Period: At the earliest, 6 months before the delivery due date. You can also submit it after the delivery.

Required Documents: Mother and Child Health Record Book or certification issued by the hospital and mother’s ID with face photo.

※ID with face photo and *Inkan* of the proxy will be required when submitted by a proxy.

※A Power of Attorney will be required if the proxy is not of the same household.

Contact: Koza Pension Agency TEL: 098-933-2267/ National Pension Section, Okinawa City Hall (ext. 2133/ 2134)

▶ **FY 2023 Public Nursery School & Kindergarten Admission and Childcare**

(Simultaneous Registration)

Submission Period: Nursery Schools - October 3 (Mon) -21 (Fri)
Kindergartens –October 3 (Sun) -7 (Fri)

Hours: 9:30 –11:30/ 13:00 –16:00 <Except for weekends and Japanese holidays>

※Submission on the weekend is only available on October 16 (Sun) at the Childcare//Kindergarten Division.

Where to Submit: New Entry & Transfer from nursery school to kindergarten

–Childcare/Kindergarten Division Okinawa City Hall (2F)

Children already enrolled in nursery school/ kindergarten–Children’s school

You can get the application form either each nursery school/ kindergarten in designated district and the contact below.

Please check our website for application schedule for each school and more information:

<https://www.city.okinawa.okinawa.jp/k034/easyjapanese/english/index.html>

Contact: *Hoiku Yochien Ka* (Childcare/Kindergarten Division) Ext. 3135 (Nursery School)/ 3174 (Kindergarten)

▶ **Current Status Report on Nursery School Tuition Coverage Service**

If you are receiving and also wish to continue receiving nursery school tuition coverage, you need to submit the current status report as indicated below.

-If you are certified for nursery school tuition coverage, submit required forms to your school or *Hoiku Yochien Ka* (Childcare//Kindergarten Division) in Okinawa City Hall.

-If you are using services only at a private nursery school out side of Okinawa City, a temporary day care, sick-kids care, or family support center, submit them at *Hoiku Yochien Ka* (Childcare/ Kindergarten Division) in Okinawa City Hall.

Application Period: September 1 (Thu) - 30 (Fri), 2022

*If you do not complete this process, you will no longer be eligible for this coverage. Please complete the process during the designated period above.

Contact: *Hoiku Yochien Ka* (Childcare/ Kindergarten Division) Ext. 3174/3137

▶ **Vision and Hearing Examination**

For 1 Grader of Elementary School in FY 2023 (Medical Checkup Before Entry)

Schedule for Each School District:

Sep. 7 (Wed) 13:30-14:00/ Koza, Mihara, Yamauchi

15:00-15:30/ Ageda, Hiyagon

Sep. 8 (Thu) 13:30-14:00/ Moromi, Kitami, Miyazato

15:00-15:30/ Shimabukuro, Goeku, Bito

Sep. 9 (Fri) 13:30-14:00/ Awase, Takahara

15:00-15:30/ Murokawa, Nakanomachi, Misato

*Please note that the examination can take about an hour and half.

Venue: Okinawa Civic Hall (Middle Hall)

Eligibility: Children who will be in the 1st grade of Elementary School in FY 2023. (Private kindergarten, nursery school and home nursery)

The inspection for children enrolled in kindergartens in Okinawa City will be conducted at the respective kindergartens. Please contact the kindergarten your child attend for the schedule.

Contact: *Shido Ka* (Guidance Division) Ext. 2758

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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► Cervical Cancer Screening From Age 20

Let's use the Cancer Examination Coupon (がん検診受診券) to receive a medical examination.

Cervical cancer is a cancer that is on the rise among women in their 20s and 30s. In the early stages, there are few symptoms, but by the time they are noticed, the disease may have progressed to the point where the uterus must be removed.

However, if cancer is detected early in cancer screening, it can be treated with a simple surgery and the uterus does not have to be removed and pregnancy and childbirth are possible in many cases.

"Cervical Cancer Screening" can detect cancer in its very early stages and "precancerous lesions" before they become cancer.

Okinawa City issues a "Cervical Cancer Examination Coupon" once every two years to women over 20 years old.

Examination Cost by Category

No co-payment (自己負担なし): No charge

With co-payment (自己負担あり): 2,000 yen

(See the coupon for your category.)

Contact: *Shimin Kenko Ka*

(Residents Health Division) Ext. 2246

► Pneumococcal Vaccination For The Elderly

1. Those who have never received a pneumococcal vaccine (23-Valent) and who meet the following age criteria in FY 2022.

2. Those who are between 60 and 64 years old with heart, kidney, respiratory function or HIV related immunity disorder (equivalent to physical disability level 1) and never received the pneumococcal vaccine (23-Valent) are also eligible to this vaccination.

Vaccination Period: Until March 31, 2023

Please make sure you bring your resident card.

Vaccination Fee: Covered by government.

This is a **one time** vaccination.

Where you can get vaccinated: Any designated medical facility. (Please contact for the detailed information.)

※Please note! *If you receive this **pneumococcal vaccine (23-Valent)** in other than the applicable year on the list, or you receive one at the other hospitals than those designated, you will not be eligible to receive it at the subsidized rate. *Please contact us if you have lost the pre-checkup sheet that should have been mailed in April to those reach the age of 65, or if you are other age than 65 and need the pre-checkup sheet.

* When receiving the new coronavirus vaccine, please pay attention to the vaccination interval. Please contact us for details.

Please come to the service window in advance with your resident card and your vaccination history.

Contact: *Kodomo Sodan Kenko Ka, Yobo Gakari* (Child Consultation/ Health Division Vaccination Section) Ext. 2232, 2233

► FY 2022 Okinawa City Housing Information

Okinawa Public Housing "Vacancy Waiting List" will be offered.

*Vacancy waiting list is an offer for a room that is expected to become available in the near future.

Application package is available during:

October 3 (Mon) - 17 (Mon), 2022

at 1F information counter

6F Public Housing Agency counter

Okinawa City Welfare Culture Plaza (7-35-1 Takahara)

Okinawa City Agricultural Training Center

(2380 Noborikawa)

Name	Category
Awase *With elevator	General
	Family with multiple children
	Silver Housing
	Silver Housing (single available)
	Designed for wheel chairs (Household with member of Lower limb impairment grade 2 or higher)
Noborikawa	General
	Family with multiple children
	Designed for wheel chairs (Household with member of Lower limb impairment grade 2 or higher)
Kubota	General
	Designed for wheel chairs (Household with member of Lower limb impairment grade 2 or higher)
Murokawa *With elevator	General
	Family with multiple children
	Silver Housing
Ageda *With elevator	General
	Family with multiple children
	Silver Housing
	Silver Housing (single available)
	Designed for wheel chairs (Household with member of Lower limb impairment grade 2 or higher)

※1:Housing for single applicants must be 60 years of age or older.

※2:Drawing will be held without visitors in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

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

FY 2022 You are eligible if you were born on or between the days listed below. (Age)

Born between April 2, 1956~ April 1, 1958 (65)
Born between April 2, 1952~ April 1, 1953 (70)
Born between April 2, 1947~ April 1, 1948 (75)
Born between April 2, 1942~ April 1, 1943 (80)
Born between April 2, 1937~ April 1, 1938 (85)
Born between April 2, 1932~ April 1, 1933 (90)
Born between April 2, 1927~ April 1, 1928 (95)
Born between April 2, 1922~ April 1, 1923 (100 and up)

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► For The Insured of Medical Care System For The Elderly

Switching of "Reduction Certificate (減額証)" and "Limit Certificate (限度証)"

In August 2022, the "Reduction Certificate 減額証" and the "Limit Certificate 限度証" were switched (Expiration date: July 31, 2023). You can limit your out-of-pocket expenses to the maximum amount of your payment by presenting the certificate at the counter of the medical institution. To obtain the certificate, you have to apply at the city hall.

Certificate Category	Reduction Certificate (減額証) 後期高齢者医療限度額適用 ・標準負担額減額認定証	Limit Certificate (限度証) 後期高齢者医療限度額適用認定証
Eligibility	Resident tax-exempt households	The insured with a resident taxable income of "1,450,000 yen and less than 6.9 million yen and "the other insured in the same household as the insured mentioned".
Application	National Health Insurance Division (1F) *Please bring your insurance card. *If a proxy is applying on behalf of you, the proxy's ID (driver's license, etc.) is also required.	

*If there is a member of the household whose income is unknown (undeclared income, etc.), we may not be able to issue the certificate. Please apply for it after filing a tax return at the Citizen's Tax Division.

<For those who are eligible for "Reduction Certificate (Category II)" Long-term hospitalization>

Upon application, meal fee will be further reduced (50 yen reduction per meal).

Eligibility: Those who have been hospitalized for more than 90 days within the past 12 months. However, the period for which the "Reduction Certificate (Category II)" is applicable.

What to Bring: A document issued by the medical institution confirming the number of days of hospitalization (receipts, etc.), insurance card.

*If a proxy is applying on behalf of the applicant, the proxy's ID (driver's license, etc.) is also required.

Contact & Application:

National Health Insurance Division Ext. 2101,2118

Percentage of window charges will change

The "percentage of medical expenses to be paid over the counter" for those with *income above a certain level will be changed.

From October 1, 2022, in order to curb the increase in medical costs and the burden of insurance premiums on the working-age population, the government has introduced a new insurance system for those with incomes above a certain level, the percentage of window charge will be **20%**.

with incomes above a certain level: Taxable income of ¥280,000 or more and the total income of pension income plus other income" is at least ¥2,000,000.

*If there are two or more insured persons, the amount must be at least ¥3.2 million.

However, for those who have to pay 20% of the total cost at the counter, there are measures to reduce the amount of burden per month.

Example: If the monthly outpatient medical expenses are **50,000 yen**

Percentage	Your payment	①Actual Burden Increased	②Maximum Amount of Increase You Pay	Amount Reimbursed ①-②
10%	5,000 yen			
20%	10,000 yen	5,000 yen	3,000 yen	2,000 yen

*The reimbursement will be transferred at a later date to the account pre-registered as a high-cost medical care expense transfer account.

*The Okinawa Prefecture Wide-Area Healthcare Union for the Late-Stage Senior Citizens will send an application form for registration to all those who do not have an account registered for high-cost medical care remittance around mid-September.

*When you receive the application form, please follow the instructions enclosed to register your account.

Second Changeover of "Elderly Health Insurance Certificate"

The second changeover will take place **in October**. The new insured card (**Pink**) will be mailed in September by registered mail. Those who have not paid their premiums will be switched over at the counter. Please bring your current insured person's card. Current certificate (**Green**) will be valid until September 30, 2022. The new certificate (**Pink**) will be valid until July 31, 2023.

Contact: National Health Insurance Division Ext. 2101,2118

Okinawa City Library News

Book readings & hand games: Saturdays, **Sep. 10, 17, & 24** starting at **3:00 pm**

Days Closed: See the library website for their business calendar. (Closed on the **red marked** dates)

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

Website: <https://www.city.okinawa.okinawa.jp/k064-001/kosodate/shakaikyouiuku/library/lib/index.html>



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:

Okinawa-shi Yakusho

Bunka Geino Ka

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26-1 Nakasone-Cho, Okinawa City, Okinawa

Tel: (098) 939-1212 FAX: (098) 923-3485

Visit our website NOW!



Koza International Plaza

2-7-20 Sumiyoshi, Okinawa City

TEL 098-989-9767

Email: kipokinawa@gmail.com

Mon-Fri :10:00-19:00/ Sat: 10:00~ 17:00

*Closed on Sundays and Japanese holidays.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ociakip>



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