

Living Guidebook for Foreign Citizens in Mito 2023



Mito City

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How to use this guidebook

< When you want to know more in detail for each specific item >

Please visit the reference website(s) or inquire of the responsible section/organization in question, as indicated below.

○To visit website(s)

- As you see below in **【Example】**, the relevant “website name/title” and “number” are shown following **【Refer to】**.
- You can also find “Living Guidebook MITO” → “List of websites for Living Guidebook MITO” on the website of Mito City International Association (<https://www.mitoic.or.jp>). From the list, please pick up the relevant website number for easy access.

○To make an inquiry

- If you still have questions after visiting the website, please call the telephone number for **【Inquiries】**. You may visit and ask at the reception counter in person.
- ※Telephone or counter inquiries are most likely to be responded in Japanese.

【Example】

1-4 Disaster

(1) Earthquake and tsunami

“Earthquake” is any shaking of the ground...

【Refer to】 Our Family’s Disaster Prevention Notes ⇒ 1-5

(Website name/title) (Website No.)

【Inquiries】 Mito City Disaster Prevention and Crisis Management Section, Tel 029-232-9152

< Abbreviation of organizational names >

Some names repeatedly appearing in the guidebook are abbreviated as below:

Mito City National Health Insurance and Pension Section



Mito City NHI and Pension Section

1 Emergencies

1-1 The words used when you are in danger

■ “Abunai!” 「危ない/あぶない！」

“Abunai” means, in principle, someone/something is in danger. You may hear someone shouting “abunai” when you are in imminent danger; for example, you are nearly hit by a car, or something is falling from above you. If you hear “abunai” be cautious to avoid a possible risk or harm.

■ “Tasukete!” 「助けて/たすけて！」

“Tasukete!” is used to ask someone for help when you are exposed to a danger or involved in an accident. If you see only Japanese around yourself, this is the essential word for you to pronounce. Bear this in mind.

1-2 Sudden illness or injury and fire

(1) How to call an ambulance/fire engine



■ In case of serious illness or severe injury

If you are in an emergency due to illness or injury, take the following steps to call an ambulance:

- ① Dial “119.”
- ② Say “Kyukyu desu (It’s a medical emergency).”
- ③ Tell the address of the site where the vehicle should arrive.
- ④ Explain the conditions of the patient.
- ⑤ Tell your name and telephone number.

■ In case of fire

If you cannot extinguish the fire, call a fire engine following the steps below.

- ① If you see a fire, shout “Kaji da (It’s a fire)” to let other people know.
- ② Evacuate to a safer place.
- ③ Dial “119.”
- ④ Say “Kaji desu (It’s a fire).”
- ⑤ Tell the address where the fire broke out.
- ⑥ Tell if there is any person left in the fire or any injured person.
- ⑦ Tell your name and telephone number.

【Refer to】 How to call 119 ⇒ 1-1

Fire and Disaster Management Agency (FDMA)

“A guide for ambulance services” ⇒ 1-2

(2) Going to hospital on weekends and holidays or at night due to sudden illness or injury

If you need urgent medical care during hours without ordinary medical services such as on holidays or at night, you can visit Mito City Holidays and Nights Urgent Care. Otherwise, you should be able to find through the internet clinics or hospitals offering medical services outside the normal practicing hours.

※Refer to “2-2 Illness or injury on holidays or at night,” page 12

1-3 Traffic accident or crime

If a traffic accident or crime takes place involving you or near you, report to the police as follows:

(1) In case of traffic accident

- ① Dial “110.”
- ② Say “Jiko desu (It’s an accident).”
- ③ Tell what happened, when and where it happened
- ④ If there is anyone injured, describe details of the victim (gender, age, injury state, etc.).
- ⑤ Tell your name and telephone number.

(2) In case of crime (theft, etc.)

- ① Dial “110.”
- ② Say “Jiken desu (It’s a crime).”
- ③ Tell what happened, when and where it happened.
- ④ If you have witnessed a suspect, describe details of the suspect (gender, age, features, car number if applicable, etc.)
- ⑤ If there is any one injured, describe details of the victim (gender, age, injury level, etc.)
- ⑥ Tell your name and telephone number.

【Refer to】 Ibaraki Prefectural Police “Emergency call 110 for crime or accident” ⇒ 1-3
Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department “The time to call 110” ⇒ 1-4

1-4 Disasters

(1) Earthquake and tsunami

■ Earthquake

“Earthquake” is any shaking of the ground caused by rock beds being displaced deep inside the earth. A large earthquake, once it occurs, can cause buildings and roads to collapse by violent shaking, as well as landslide, avalanche, tsunami, etc. In Japan, earthquakes are frequently experienced, and a large earthquake could happen anytime, anyplace. Check the locations of weak ground or vulnerable to earthquake damage with “Earthquake Hazard Map” and get well prepared for evacuation.



■ Tsunami

An earthquake affects sea waters, creating waves which eventually approach the coastlines. These waves associated with an earthquake is called “tsunami.” Tsunami waves can travel at a very high speed and reach as high as several tens of meters. Japan has suffered a great number of casualties resulting from tsunami damage. Locate dangerous areas by looking up the city hazard maps, etc. available on the website, and be prepared to evacuate in time.

(2) Typhoon, heavy rain and flood

■ Typhoon

From around summer to autumn, a tropical cyclone having developed over the Pacific Ocean brings about strong winds and heavy rainfalls all across Japan and its surrounding areas. This is called “typhoon.” Every year, Japan is hit by typhoon frequently, sometimes suffering serious damages from strong winds, heavy rainfalls and floods. While maintaining your disaster supply kit at hand, confirm correct typhoon information with the weather forecast and prepare for evacuation ahead of time.

■ Heavy rain and flood

During a typhoon and cyclone season, heavy rainfalls are often experienced, causing high flow or overflow of river water. Any overflow of a river is called “flood,” inundating towns, carrying away houses and properties with river waters, sometimes involving casualties. Now heavy rainfall and land flood can be forecasted. Take appropriate actions such as preparing an emergency supply kit in advance for evacuation, evacuating in accordance with the alert level issued by the city office, and more.



【Refer to】 Our Family’s Disaster Prevention Notes ⇒ 1-5

Mito Earthquake Disaster Prevention Map ⇒ 1-6

List of Shelters/Evacuation Centers ⇒ 1-7

Mito City Hazard Map ⇒ 1-8

About Weather Warning Level ⇒ 1-9

【Inquiries】 Mito City Disaster Prevention and Crisis Management Section

(水戸市防災・危機管理課 Mitoshi bosai・kikikanri-ka) Tel 029-232-9152

(3) Nuclear disaster

In the cities, towns and villages surrounding Mito City are built many nuclear facilities such as nuclear power plants and research institutes. If any radioactive material which must be strictly controlled in such facilities are emitted, by any chance, outside of the premises in large quantities, it will pose a serious risk. Exposure to a large amount of high energy radiation at a time will do a great damage to human body.

In preparation for a nuclear disaster, try to have correct knowledge based on information issued regularly by the prefectural or city government and news media.

[Refer to] Ibaraki Prefecture “Handbook on Nuclear Power” ⇒ 1-10

[Inquiries] Ibaraki Prefecture Nuclear Energy Safety Division

(茨城県原子力安全 対策課 Ibarakiken genshiryoku anzen taisaku-ka)

Tel 029-301-2922

Mito City Disaster Prevention and Crisis Management Section

(水戸市防災・危機管理課 Mitoshi bosai・kikikanri-ka) Tel 029-232-9152

1-5 Information/Communication during disaster

(1) Sources of information during disaster

During a disaster, information tends to be inaccessible. Not to be mixed up with wrong information, try to stay informed of correct information. Disaster information in several languages as well as local news is available through the following media.

Media	Broadcast station, etc.	Frequency/Address	Language
Internet	Mito City	⇒ 1-11	Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean
	Japan Meteorological Agency	⇒ 1-12	15 languages
	NHK World-Japan	⇒ 1-13	20 languages
Radio	Lucky FM Ibaraki Broadcast	AM1197kHz FM94.6MHz	Japanese
	FM Palulun	FM76.2MHz	Japanese
	NHK Radio 2	AM693kHz	News in English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese
	InterFM	FM89.7MHz	10 languages
SNS	Mito City Twitter	@Kouhou_mito	Japanese
	Mito City Facebook	@mimika310	Japanese
	Mito City LINE	@mitocity	Japanese

Media	Broadcast station, etc.	Frequency/Address	Language
Disaster Prevention App	Yahoo! Japan Disaster Alert	⇒ 1-14	Japanese
Email	Mito City Email Newsletter (Disaster Prevention email)	⇒ 1-15	Japanese

(2) Disaster Emergency Message Dial “171”

When a disaster occurs, telephone lines tend to be busy, hard to be connected. In such a case, “Disaster Emergency Message Dial” is very convenient. You can leave your message or hear your family’s or friend’s message.

【Refer to】 NTT East “Disaster Emergency Message Dial 171” ⇒ 1-16

(3) Disaster Message Board “web171”

During a disaster, you can post a message on the website. It can be accessible from your PC, smartphone or mobile phone. You can use it by pre-registering in four languages: Japanese, English, Chinese (Simple) and Korean.

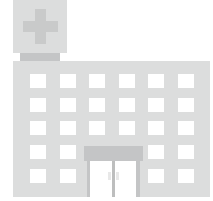
【Refer to】 NTT East “Disaster Message Board web171” ⇒ 1-17

2 Medical and Health Care

2-1 Hospital/Clinic

(1) How to find hospital/clinic

In Japan, we do not use the family doctor system, so you have to find on your own a medical institution most suitable for your symptoms. In the case of slight sickness or injury, visit your near-by clinic, while in the case of serious illness or injury visit a large hospital with sufficient medical equipment.



Major medical departments available in Japan are as follows. Find a hospital with your desired specialty through the website “Ibaraki Emergency Medical Information System,” for example.

■ Medical departments

- Internal medicine: treats colds and internal diseases using medication
- Surgery: treats injuries or diseases using operation
- Pediatrics: treat colds and internal diseases of infants, children and adolescents
- Plastic surgery: treats injuries or diseases affecting bones, joints, muscles, etc.
- Ophthalmology: treats eye disorders
- Otorhinolaryngology: treat ears, nose and throat diseases
- Dentistry: treats teeth diseases, disorders and orthodontics
- Obstetrics/Gynecology: Obstetrics is concerned with pregnancy and childbirth while Gynecology treats woman-specific diseases.

【Refer to】 Ibaraki Emergency Medical Information System ⇒ 2-1

(2) When visiting hospital/clinic

When you visit a medical institution, make sure to take your health insurance card with you. By presenting it at the check-in desk, you can receive treatment at 20-30% of ordinary payment. If not, you have to pay a full large amount of expense for your treatment.

When you visit a large hospital, you may need a referral by the doctor whom you usually see. Some medical institutions require an appointment for consultation, so we advise you to confirm in advance if an appointment is needed.

(3) When you need an interpreter at hospital/clinic

Contact Ibaraki International Association. They will arrange “Medical Interpretation Supporter” for you.

【Refer to】 Ibaraki International Association “Multi-cultural Coexistence Supporters’ Bank”
(多文化共生サポーターバンク Tabunka kyosei supporter bank) ⇒ 2-2

【Inquiries】 Ibaraki International Association

(茨城県国際交流協会 Ibarakiken kokusai koryu kyokai) Tel 029-244-3811

745 Ushirokawa, Senba-cho, Mito City 310-0851

2-2 Illness or injury on holidays or at night

If you get sick or injured on weekends and holidays or at night out of medical service hours, take an appropriate action according to the symptoms.

(1) In critical or urgent case

Do not panic and be calm to dial “119” for an ambulance.

※To call an ambulance, refer to “1-2 Sudden illness or injury and fire,” page 6

(2) In relatively slight case

■ Mito City Holidays and Nights Urgent Care

(戸田市休日夜間緊急診療所 Mitoshi kyujitsu yakan kinkyu shinryojo)

- You can receive fast-aid treatment on weekends, on holidays and at night.
- Specialties available: internal medicine, pediatrics, surgery and dentistry
 - ※Surgery and dentistry open only on holidays in the daytime
- Departments available and service hours vary depending on day. Confirm in advance.
- When you wish to visit the care center, make sure to call beforehand for appointment.

【Refer to】 Mito City Holidays and Nights Urgent Care ⇒ 2-3

【Inquiries】 993-13 Kasahara-cho, Mito City 310-0852

Tel 029-243-8825, Tel 029-243-8840 (for Dentistry)

■ Ibaraki Children’s Hospital (茨城県立こども病院 Ibaraki ken-ritsu kodomo byoin)

- Children with sudden illness or injury are treated.
- It is operated only at night, but sometimes unavailable. Please make sure to call before you visit.

[Check-in hours] 10:00pm - 2:00am the following day

[Consultation hours] 11:00pm - 3:00am the following day

【Refer to】 Ibaraki Children’s Hospital ⇒ 2-4

【Inquiries】 3-3-1 Futabada, Mito City 311-4145, Tel 029-254-1151

(3) In need of consultation or information

■ Ibaraki Urgent Care Hotline for Children/Adults

(茨城子ども救急電話相談・おとな救急電話相談)

Ibaraki kodomo kyukyu denwa sodan/otona kyukyu denwa sodan)

In case of sudden illness or injury, you can consult about the symptoms and find out which hospital or clinic to visit for urgent treatment if needed. Consultation is available for 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

【Inquiries】・Children's illness (Under 15 years) Tel #8000 or 050-5445-2856

・Adults' illness (15 years or above) Tel #7119 or 050-5445-2856

■ Kids Emergency (ONLINE-QQ)

When your child is suddenly taken ill on weekends or holidays or at night outside the medical service hours, you can consult to find out if your child needs urgent medical treatment. Children of one month up to six years old are treated.

【Refer to】 Japan Pediatric Society “Kodomo QQ” ⇒ 2-5

(4) In need of information on medication

You can consult about medications on holidays or at night.

[Hours available] Monday – Friday 7:00pm – 12:00pm

Saturday, Sunday and holidays 9:00am – 12:00pm

【Inquiries】 Mito Pharmaceutical Association

(水戸薬剤師会 Mito yakuzaiishi kai) Tel 080-7887-8668

2-3 Medical Insurance

Japan has the public medical insurance system for everyone to prepare for expenses caused by injury or illness treatment at hospital. In order to reduce your payment for medical expenses at hospital, you will need to pay the premiums.

There are several types of public medical insurance as below. Anyone living in Japan, regardless of nationality, must join one of the insurances as appropriate.

- Health insurance: for those who work for a company as a permanent employee
- National Health Insurance: for those who are not covered by any social insurance
- Medical care system for elderlies: for those aged 75 and over

Make sure to take your medical insurance card when you visit hospital/clinic. Without presenting it at the medical institution, you will need to pay a full amount of expensive medical fees for the services you received.

【Refer to】 National Health Insurance ⇒ 2-6

【Inquiries】

[Concerning social insurance] Consult your employer

[Concerning National Health Insurance] Mito City National Health Insurance and Pension Section
(水戸市国保年金課 Mitoshi kokuho nenkin-ka)
Tel 029-232-9526

[Medical care system for elderlies] Mito City NHI and Pension Section Tel 029-232-9528



2-4 Health check-up, cancer screening, etc.

Any citizen registered with Mito City, as well as foreign citizens, is eligible for health check-up, cancer screening, etc. conducted by the city. The health check-up includes various inspection types, offered at different locations for applicable persons. Please confirm details in advance with Regional Public Health Services Section (地域保健課 chiiki hoken-ka).

【Refer to】 Health Check-up and Cancer Screening for Adults ⇒ 2-7

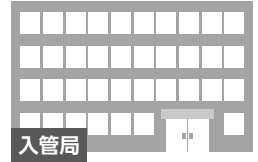
【Inquiries】 Mito City Public Health Center, Regional Public Health Services Section
(水戸市保健所地域保健課 Mitoshi hokenjo, chiiki hoken-ka) Tel 029-243-7311
993-13 Kasahara-cho, Mito City, 310-0852

3 Resident Registration, etc.

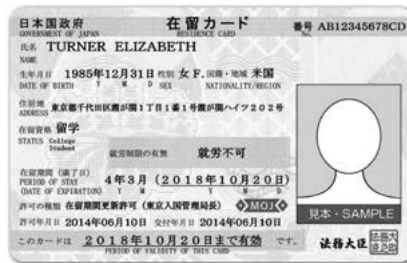
3-1 Residence Card

(1) What is Residence Card?

“Residence Card” is issued to foreign nationals, legally residing in Japan for a medium to long term. This is considered as a valid identification card (ID card) and of great importance.



- Mid- to long term residents exclude:
 - Persons granted permission to stay for not more than three months
 - Persons granted the status of residence “Temporary visitor”
 - Persons granted the status of residence “Diplomat” or “Official”
 - Persons recognized by the Ministry of Justice ordinance as equivalent to the foreign nationals as above
 - Special permanent residents
 - Persons without the status of residence
- A residence card contains information such as name, nationality, address, status of residence, and period of stay as well as photo.
- Persons aged 16 or over must carry his/her own residence card. If requested by Immigration Inspector, Immigration Control Officer or Police Officer, you must present your card.



(2) Changes in Residence Card

During your stay in Japan, if there has been any change in the information shown on your residence card other than the address, you must notify within 14 days from the change a regional immigration office in charge of the area (Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau, Mito Branch Office) of the change.

If you wish to extend the period of residence, change the status of residence, obtain permission to engage in activity other than that granted, have got married or divorced, have changed your employer or school, etc., you should follow the procedures as appropriate.

※When you have changed your address, notify the new city office of the change within 14 days from the change.

【Refer to】 Immigration Services Agency of Japan “Residence Card” ⇒ 3-1

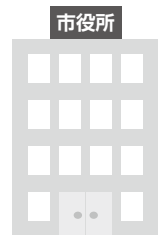
【Inquiries】

- Immigration Information Center (Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 5:15pm)
Tel 0570-013904 (Toll-free), Tel 03-5796-7112 (Mobile, Overseas)
- Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau
Tel 0570-034259 (Toll-free), Tel 03-5796-7234 (Mobile, Overseas)
- Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau,
Mito Branch Office 1-1 Kitami-cho, Mito City 310-8540
Mito Legal Affairs Joint Gov't Bldg. 1F, Tel 029-300-3601

3-2 Resident record

(1) When establishing residence in Mito

When you have settled yourself in Mito after entering Japan from abroad, take along your passport and Residence Card and submit your “Moving-in Notification” to the city office within 14 days from the settlement.



【Refer to】 Resident registration ⇒ 3-2

【Inquiries】 Mito City Records and Certification Section

(水戸市市民課 Mitoshi shimin-ka) Tel 029-232-9156

(2) When changing residence

When you relocate within Japan, take along your Residence Card and follow the necessary procedures at the office. If you have your “My Number Card” present it as well.

■ **When moving into Mito City (from another city, town or village)**

Make sure to submit “Moving-out Notification” to the city office of your previous residence before you move out. Submit “Moving-in Notification” to the Mito city office within 14 days from your moving-in.

■ **When moving out of Mito City (to another city, town or village)**

Submit “Moving-out Notification” to the Mito city office before you move out. Submit “Moving-in Notification” within 14 days from your relocation to the city office of your new address.

■ **When relocating within Mito**

Submit “Moving-in Notification” to the Mito city office within 14 days from your relocation.

■ When departing Japan / When moving abroad

Make sure to submit “Moving-out Notification” to the Mito city office before you depart from Japan.

【Refer to】 Resident Registration ⇒ 3-2

【Inquiries】 Mito City Records and Certification Section

(水戸市市民課 Mitoshi shimin-ka) Tel 029-232-9156

(3) When getting married or divorced

■ Submission of notification

When a foreign national intends to get married to or divorced from a Japanese or a foreign national, submit to the city office the following documents:

When getting married・・・“Marriage Notification”

When getting divorced・・・“Divorce Notification”

※There are some other documents required. For details, contact the city office.

※If you are a foreign national, contact your country’s embassy or consulate and ask for information to follow the necessary procedures in your home country.

【Refer to】 Family Register ⇒ 3-3

【Inquiries】 Mito City Records and Certification Section

(水戸市市民課 Mitoshi shimin-ka) Tel 029-232-9156



(4) When a child is born

■ Submission of notification

When your baby is born in Japan, within 14 days from the birth, submit “Birth Notification” to the city office.

【Refer to】 Family register ⇒ 3-3

【Inquiries】 Mito City Records and Certification Section

(水戸市市民課 Mitoshi shimin-ka) Tel 029-232-9156

■ Procedure at the embassy or consulate of your country

Please take the procedure of passport application for your new born baby at your country’s embassy or consulate. If both the parents are foreign nationals, the baby cannot acquire Japanese nationality.

■ **Application for Residence Card**

If the baby of foreign nationality is to reside in Japan exceeding 60 days after the birth, apply for Residence Card at Mito Immigration Office within 30 days after the birth.

【Inquiries】 Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau Mito Branch Office Tel 029-300-3601

(5) **When a family member passes away**

■ **Submission of notification**

When your family member or anyone living together has passed away, submit “Death Notification” within seven days after the death.

【Refer to】 Family register ⇒ 3-3

【Inquiries】 Mito City Records and Certification Section

(水戸市市民課 Mitoshi shimin-ka) Tel 029-232-9156

■ **Return of Residence Card**

If the deceased is a foreign national, return his/her Residence Card within 14 days after the death to Mito Immigration Office.

【Inquiries】 Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau Mito Branch Office Tel 029-300-3601

■ **Procedures in the deceased’s home country**

If the deceased is a foreign national, take necessary procedures at the embassy or consulate of his/her home country. Inquire of the embassy or consulate for details.

(6) **My Number System**

An individual number called “My Number” is allocated to every person residing in Japan. When you receive “Individual Number Notice” containing “My Number” (your individual number) from the city office, please keep it safe.

■ **“My Number” is needed when:**

- Taking procedures at the city office for social insurance or tax payment
- Starting to work for company, etc.
- Opening a bank account, making foreign remittance (from or to Japan), etc.

■ Application for My Number Card

After receiving an individual number notice, apply at the city office for “My Number Card” to be issued on a later date. This My Number Card is equipped with an IC chip, containing your name, address, date of birth, gender, and individual number as well as photo. You can use it to receive various services offered by local governments. In addition, it can be your identity verification document, which is very convenient.



【Refer to】 My Number (Individual Number) ⇒ 3-4

The Japan Agency for Local Authority Information Systems
“Individual Number Card comprehensive site” ⇒ 3-5

【Inquiries】 Mito City Records and Certification Section
(水戸市市民課 Mitoshi shimin-ka) Tel 029-232-9156

3-3 Registered seal and Certificate of Seal Registration

(1) Registered seal

When making an important contract such as buying/selling of a car, housing and land, you need your registered seal (実印jitsuin). Jitsuin signifies an “officially recognized” seal which has been registered with the city office of your residence (印鑑登録 inkan toroku). “Seal Registration Card” (印鑑登録証 Inkan toroku sho) is issued upon registration.

When registering your seal with the city office, take along your seal and some identification documents (your driver’s license, Residence Card, etc.)

(2) Certificate of Seal Registration

When you use your registered seal in contract or business deals, you need “Certificate of Seal Registration” as well. This is to verify that the seal belongs to you and is already registered. A Certificate of Seal Registration is issued upon application at the city office with your “Seal Registration Card” as well as your identification documents (your driver’s license, Residence Card, etc.) presented.

【Refer to】 Seal ⇒ 3-6

【Inquiries】 Mito City Records and Certification Section

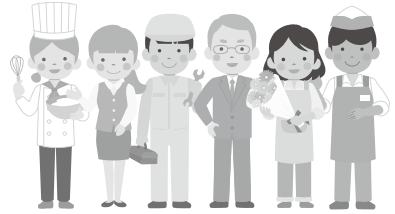
(水戸市市民課 Mitoshi shimin-ka) Tel 029-232-9156

4 Taxes

Taxes are funds of importance to be used by governmental, prefectural and municipal organizations offering services necessary for residents living comfortably. There are various types of taxes, levied on salary, shopping, possession of a car or a house, etc.

4-1 Income tax

Income tax, paid to the national government, is levied on all income earned over one year from January 1 to December 31, such as salaries paid by employer, and profits gained from business.



■ How to pay ①

(paid by your employer for you by withholding at source)

Your company-employer deducts income tax each month from your salary (源泉徴収 Gensen choshu). The amount of tax is indicated in your “Salary Statement” (給与明細書 Kyuyo meisaisho) given by your employer. The total amount of income tax over the year is indicated in “Withholding Record of Employment Income” (源泉徴収票 Gensen choshuhyo) given by your employer in January the next year.

■ How to pay ② (paid by yourself)

If you run your own business or your employer does not deduct from your salary, you need to pay the income tax on your own. Between February 16 and March 15, file your income tax return for the previous year at the tax office.

Using the tax payment form issued by the tax office when filing your tax return, pay your tax at bank, post office or convenience store by the due date.

【Refer to】 National Tax Agency “Income Tax” ⇒ 4-1

【Inquiries】 Mito Tax Office, Tel 029-231-4211

1-17 Kitami-cho, Mito City, 310-8666

4-2 Resident tax

Resident tax, composed of municipal tax and prefectural tax, is levied on your income over one year from January 1 to December 31 if you reside in Mito as of January 1 and had income of salary, etc. in the previous year. In addition, if you have your resident registration in Mito as of January 1 and plan to depart from Japan in the middle of the same year, the resident tax for the following year is still imposed and you must pay the tax for the whole year.

■ **How to pay ①** (paid by your employer for you by withholding at source)

Your company-employer deducts resident tax each month from your salary. The amount of monthly tax is indicated in your “Salary Statement” (給与明細書 Kyuyo meisaisho)” given by your employer.

The period of resident tax payment starts from June to May of the following year. The total amount of tax over one year is informed by the city office in May every year.

■ **How to pay ②** (paid by yourself)

If you run your own business or your employer does not deduct from your salary, you need to pay the resident tax on your own.

When you receive a tax notice (納税通知書 Nozei tsuchi sho) along with payment forms (納付書 Nofu sho), pay by the due date at the city office, bank, post office or convenience store.

You can also use bank transfer, credit card or mobile phone as a means of payment.

【Refer to】 Taxes ⇒ 4-2

【Inquiries】

[Taxation] Mito City Personal Income Tax Section

(水戸市市民税課 Mitoshi shiminzei-ka) Tel 029-232-9138

[Tax payment] Mito City Tax Collection Section

(水戸市収税課 Mitoshi shuzei-ka) Tel 029-232-9145

4-3 Consumption tax

When you purchase goods or receive services, you need to pay the consumption tax of 8% or 10% rate.

■ **Consumption tax rate (as of 2023)**

- foods and beverages bought at super market, etc. (excluding alcohol)・・・8%
- items and services other than above・・・10%

■ Price indication

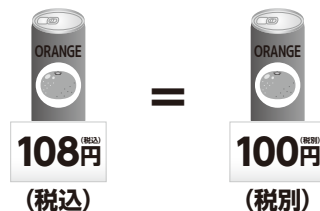
Please note prices are indicated in two ways: “tax inclusive” and “tax exclusive.”

【Example】 When you buy juice priced at ¥100
(consumption tax 8%)

※The total amount you pay is “¥108.”

•Price indication for “税込 Zeikomi (tax inclusive)” → 「108円」

•Price indication for “税別 Zeibetsu (tax exclusive)” → 「100円」



【Refer to】 National Tax Agency “Consumption Tax” ⇒ 4-3

【Inquiries】 Mito Tax Office, Tel 029-231-4211
1-17 Kitami-cho, Mito City 310-8666

4-4 Vehicle Tax / Light Vehicle Tax

Vehicle tax or light vehicle tax has to be paid by the person who owns a car or motorbike as of April 1.

“Vehicle tax” is levied on cars with a white or green number plate (displacement over 660cc), while “Light vehicle tax” is levied on cars with a yellow or black number plate (displacement 660cc or under). The tax amount varies by the type of car or motorbike.

■ How to pay

You will receive “Tax notice” (納税通知書 Nozei tsuchi sho) indicating the tax amount around May from the city office or prefectural tax office. Pay the tax within the deadline at the city office (light vehicle tax), prefectural office (vehicle tax), any financial institution, post office or convenience store.

【Refer to】 Ibaraki Prefecture “Vehicle tax” ⇒ 4-4

Tax ⇒ 4-2

【Inquiries】

[Vehicle tax] Mito Prefectural Tax Office, Tel 029-221-6605
1-3-1 Sakumachi, Mito 310-0802

[Light vehicle tax] Mito City Personal Income Tax Section
(水戸市市民税課 Mitoshi shiminzei-ka) Tel 029-232-9138

4-5 Property tax / Urban planning tax

If you own fixed property (land, building, etc.) as of January 1, you need to pay the property tax. Depending on the location of your property, you may need to pay the urban planning tax as well.

■ How to pay

You will receive “Tax notice” (納税通知書 Nozei tsuchi sho) along with “Tax payment form” (納付書 Nofu sho) annually in April from the city office. Please pay at the city office, bank, post office or convenience store within the deadline.

You can also pay using bank transfer, credit card or mobile phone.

【Refer to】 Tax ⇒ 4-2

【Inquiries】 Mito City Property Tax Section

(水戸市資産税課 Mitoshi shisanzei-ka) Tel 029-232-9141

5 Pregnancy/Childbirth and Child-rearing

5-1 When you have become pregnant

(1) Mother and Child Healthcare

When your pregnancy has been confirmed at obstetrics and gynecology clinic, submit “Pregnancy report” to the city office, Tsunezumi Community Health Center, or Uchihara Community Health Center to receive “Maternal and Child Health Handbook” and “Mother and child booklet.”



■ Maternal and Child Health Handbook (母子健康手帳 Boshi kenko techo)

In the handbook are kept records of baby’s growth and health from pregnancy to birth as well as his/her vaccination history. In addition, notes about raising babies are included. Make sure to take along the handbook when visiting hospital and having mother and child health check-up. The handbook will be used until the child enters elementary school, but the information recorded in the handbook will be even more useful later. Please keep it safe.

■ Mother and child booklet (母と子のしおり Haha to ko no shiori)

The booklet includes the following medical tickets:

Prenatal check-up ticket (妊婦一般健康診査受診票 Ninpu ippan kenko shinsa jyushin-hyo),
Postnatal check-up ticket (産婦健康診査受診票 Sanpu kenko shinsa jyushin-hyo),
Newborn hearing check-up ticket (新生児聴覚検査受診票 Shinseiji chokaku kensa jyushin-hyo),
Infant check-up ticket (乳児一般健康診査受診票 Nyuji ippan kenko shinsa jyushin-hyo),
Prenatal dental check-up ticket (妊婦歯科健康診査受診票 Ninpu shika kenko shinsa jyushin-hyo),
Breastfeeding consultation ticket (母乳育児相談利用券 Bonyu ikuji sodan riyō-ken),
Low birth weight infant report (低体重児出生届 Teitaijyūji shussho-todoke)

【Refer to】 Maternal and Child Health Handbook ⇒ 5-1

【Inquiries】 Mito City Child-rearing Support Section

(水戸市子育て支援課 Mitoshi kosodate shien-ka) Tel 029-350-1216

5-2 During pregnancy

(1) Pregnant and postnatal woman’s health care

■ Prenatal general health care (妊婦一般健康診査 Ninpu ippan kenko shinsa)

During pregnancy, a mother should go through health check-up regularly at an obstetrics and gynecology clinic for her baby and herself. With the use of the check-up tickets provided by the city (14 visits for singleton pregnancy, 19 visits for multiple pregnancy), a portion of the medical expenses will be supported.

■ **Postnatal health care (産婦健康診査 Sanpu kenko shinsa)**

After delivery, changes in the mother's mind and body tend to be neglected. Between two weeks and one month after delivery, have a health check-up at obstetrics and gynecology clinic. With the use of the checkup tickets provided by the city (for two visits), a portion of the medical expenses will be supported.

【Refer to】 Pregnant and postnatal woman's health care ⇒ 5-2

(2) **Prenatal dental care (妊婦歯科健康診査 Ninpu shika kenko shinsa)**

Pregnancy tends to cause gum diseases and cavities; prenatal dental check-up at a dental institution is recommended when the mother's health condition is stable. The expense for one check-up visit is supported by the city.

【Refer to】 Prenatal dental care ⇒ 5-3

(3) **Childbirth preparation class (妊婦教室 Hello Baby Class)**

Class is open at City Hall for first time parents to ease their worries about not only childbirth but also child-rearing. Reservation is necessary, so confirm on the city website in advance. Such classes may be open also at a clinic where you plan to have delivery. Please contact your clinic for details.

【Refer to】 Childbirth preparation class ⇒ 5-4

【Inquiries】 Mito City Childcare Support Section

(水戸市子育て支援課 Mitoshi kosadate shien-ka) Tel 029-350-1216

(4) **Consultation for pregnant mothers, etc. "Smile Mom Mito"**

Pregnant mothers can consult about their anxieties or worries concerning maternity or infants up to one year old. Midwives and public health nurses are ready to respond to various consultations.

Date & Time available: Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 5:15pm,
closed on holidays and new year holidays

Place: Mito City Childcare Support Section (City Hall, 2F) Tel 029-350-7528

【Refer to】 Smile Mom Mito ⇒ 5-5

(5) Medical expense support system for pregnant women (妊産婦医療福祉費助成制度 Marufuku)

This is the system where pregnant women who have medical insurance can be supported in paying their medical expenses at obstetrics and gynecology hospital.

However, those with a high income may not be able to receive such support.

【Refer to】 Medical expense support system for pregnant women ⇒ 5-6

【Inquiries】 Mito City NHI and Pension Section

(水戸市国保年金課 Mitoshi kokuho nenkin-ka) Tel 029-232-9166

5-3 When you have given birth

(1) Childbirth and Childcare Lump-Sum Allowance (出産育児一時金 Shussan ikuji ichijikin)

When you, being enrolled in the National Health Insurance program, have given birth to a child, you are eligible to receive “Childbirth and Childcare Lump-Sum Allowance” from the city office. If you have contributed to other medical insurance programs other than NHI, contact your employer, etc. for details.

【Refer to】 Childbirth and Childcare Lump-Sum Allowance ⇒ 5-7

【Inquiries】 Mito City NHI and Pension Section

(水戸市国保年金課 Mitoshi kokuho nenkin-ka) Tel 029-232-9166



(2) Birth Notification

Refer to “3-2 (4) When a child is born,” page 17

【Inquiries】 Mito City Records and Certification Section

(水戸市市民課 Mitoshi shimin-ka) Tel 029-232-9156



(3) Health check-up and child-rearing consultation

In order to check the growth and development and health conditions of your child, have health check-ups and child-rearing consultations as appropriate.

Check-up and consultation details are as follows:

Check-up/Consultation	Age	Place
1 month old health check-up (1か月児健康診査 Ikkagetsuji kenshin)	1 month old	Medical institution, etc. where the baby is born
1st infant health check-up (乳児一般健康診査 Nyuji kenshin) ⇒ 5-8	3 - 4 mos old	Family pediatrics
7 months old childcare consultation (7か月児育児相談 Nanakagetsuji sodan)※ ⇒5-9	7 to 8 months old	City Hall, Tsunozumi Community Health Center, Uchihara Community Health Center
2nd infant health check-up (乳児一般健康診査 Nyuji kenshin)	9 - 11 mos old	Family pediatrics
1yr 6mos old health check-up (1歳6か月児健康診査 Issai rokkagetsuji kenshin) ⇒ 5-10	1yr 6mos - 1yr 11mos	Designated medical institutions
2yrs old dental health check-up (2歳児健康診査 Nisaiji kenshin) ⇒ 5-11	2yrs 6mos - 2yrs 11mos	City Hall, Tsunozumi Community Health Center, Uchihara Community Health Center, Support Center for Child Development
3yrs old health check-up (3歳児健康診査 Sansaiji kenshin) ⇒ 5-12	3yrs 6mos - 3yrs 11mos	City Hall, Tsunozumi Community Health Center, Uchihara Community Health Center

※Childcare consultation is also available to infants aged other than seven months old.

[Inquiries] Mito City Childcare Support Section

(水戸市子育て支援課 Mitoshi kosodate shien-ka) Tel 029-350-1216

(4)Vaccination

Have children vaccinated and build up resistance to disease.

“Vaccination tickets” are to be delivered from Public Health Center within about one month from your child’s birth. Take along the tickets and have your child vaccinated at medical institutions.



Vaccinations include “routine vaccines” offered for free and “voluntary vaccines” for a fee. Some vaccinations specify the applicable age range, so consult your family pediatrician, Health and Prevention Section (保健予防課 Hoken yobo-ka), etc. to confirm when and which vaccine to take.

※The first vaccination is applicable to six weeks old infants and older; early planning of the vaccination schedule for your child is recommended before he/she is born.

■ Types of vaccines

※As of 2023. The types of vaccine applicable are subject to change.

Routine or Voluntary	Vaccines
Routine	Hib, PCV, Hepatitis B, BCG, 4 combination vaccines (Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Inactivated polio), 2 combination vaccines (Diphtheria, Tetanus), Chickenpox, Measles and Rubella, Japanese encephalitis, HPV, Rotavirus
Voluntary	Mumps, Children’s flu

【Refer to】 Vaccination ⇒ 5-13 ~ 5-25

【Inquiries】 Mito City Public Health Center, Health and Prevention Section
(水戸市保健所保健予防課 Mitoshi hokenjo, Hoken yobo-ka)
Tel 029-243-7315

(5) Medical expense support system for children (子ども医療福祉費助成制度 Marufuku)

This is a system in which children up to 18 years old, having a medical insurance, can receive financial support for treatment or services at hospital.

【Refer to】 Medical expense support system for children ⇒ 5-26

【Inquiries】 Mito City NHI and Pension Section
(水戸市国保年金課 Mitoshi kokuho nenkin-ka) Tel 029-232-9166

(6) Child allowance (児童手当 Jido teate)

Those who are raising children up to junior high school 3rd grade will be eligible to receive the allowance.

Make sure to apply for the allowance right after birth. When relocating, apply to the office of your new residence.

【Refer to】 Child allowance ⇒ 5-27

【Inquiries】 Mito City Child Policy Section
(水戸市子ども政策課 Mitoshi kodomo seisaku-ka) Tel 029-232-9176

5-4 Child-rearing

(1) Information and consultation on child-rearing

■ **Comprehensive guidebook on child-rearing support**

This guidebook explains in details services pertaining to pregnancy, childbirth and child-rearing as well as their application procedures offered by Mito City.

【Refer to】 Comprehensive guidebook on child-rearing support ⇒ 5-28

■ **Child-rearing support counselor**

Support counselors of the city staff specialized in child-rearing provide useful information and child-rearing advice to meet each family's needs.

【Refer to】 Child-rearing support counselor ⇒ 5-29

【Inquiries】 Mito City Child Policy Section

(水戸市こども政策課 Mitoshi kodomo seisaku-ka) Tel 029-350-5577

■ About health of mother and child

Refer to “5-2 (4) Consultation for pregnant mothers “Smile Mom Mito” page 26

【Inquiries】 Mito City Childcare Support Section (水戸市子育て支援課 Mitoshi kosodate shien-ka), “Smile Mom Mito”, Tel 029-350-7528

■ Childcare Support and Multigenerational Exchange Center

(わんぱーく・みとWan Park Mito, はみんぐぱーく・みとHumming Park Mito)

Around children gather people of various generations, to communicate with each other beyond generations, exchange information on child-rearing, ask advice on their concerns, and the like. Temporary nursing service as well as various classes are available.

【Inquiries】

•Wan Park Mito Tel 029-303-1515

3-4-30 Omachi, Mito City, 310-0062

•Humming Park Mito, Tel 029-302-3662

1-8-2 Honcho, Mito City, 310-0815

【Refer to】 Childcare Support and Multigenerational Exchange Center ⇒ 5-30

■ Childcare Counseling Room (家庭児童相談室 Katei jido sodan-shitsu)

Various issues related to children and child-rearing, involving daily living, school life, characters, development, etc. can be solved by consultations through face-to-face interview and telephone.

Hours available: Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 5:15pm

closed on national holidays and New Year and year-end holidays

Place: Mito City Childcare Support Section(水戸市子育て支援課 Mitoshi kosodate shien-ka)

(City Hall, 2F) Tel 029-232-9111

【Refer to】 Childcare Counseling Room ⇒ 5-31

(2) Parenting classes (育児教室 Ikuji kyoshitsu)

■ Medaka Class (めだか教室)

Parents can mitigate their childcare worries by talking with other participants and learning about child-rearing, and make friends in the class.

Participants: parent and his/her first child (of 3 - 4 months)

Place: Tsunozumi Community Health Center

(常澄保健センター Tsunozumi hoken center), Tel 029-269-5285

472-1 Oba-cho, Mito City, 311-1125

Uchihara Community Health Center

(内原保健センター Uchihara hoken center), Tel 029-259-6411

1384-2 Uchihara-cho, Mito City 319-0315

Application: call either Community Health Center for reservation.

【Refer to】 Medaka Class ⇒ 5-32

■ Try! Weaning Food Class (トライ離乳食教室 Torai rinyushoku class)

Class is open to learn how to start weaning, with lecture by nutritionist and weaning food tasting. If you wish to participate, reservation is necessary.

Participants: childcare providers taking care of infants up to five months

Place: City Hall (市役所 Shiyakusho)

Application: reservation on the Mito City website

【Refer to】 Try ! Weaning Food Class ⇒ 5-33

【Inquiries】 Mito City Childcare Support Section

(水戸市子育て支援課 Mitoshi kosodate shien-ka) Tel 029-350-1216

(3) Child care and education

Children aged six years and under before entering elementary school can attend nursery schools, kindergartens, integrated facilities of kindergarten, etc.

In the case that children aged zero to five years use any of nursery schools, kindergartens and integrated facilities of kindergarten, etc. the fees will not be charged on families with no resident tax imposed. In the case of children aged three to five years no fee will be charged on all families, except for school bus and meal fees.

■ Nursery School (保育所・保育園 Hoikusho/hoikuen)

- It is a childcare facility which provides approximately eight hours a day care to children from zero years on behalf of their parents or guardians who cannot look after their children at home due to work, etc.
- Some facilities offer services on weekends and national holidays as well.
- If you wish to use nursery schools, apply at the city office regardless of municipal or private schools.



【Refer to】 Nursery school ⇒ 5-34

■ Kindergarten (幼稚園 Yochien)

- It's a facility where children aged from three years to preschool age are cared for approximately four hours a day, offering fundamental early childhood education in preparation for elementary school.
- Children can learn various things while playing.
- If you choose to use kindergarten for your child, apply directly to the kindergarten where you wish to enroll your child.

【Refer to】 Kindergarten ⇒ 5-35

■ Integrated facilities of kindergarten and nursery school (認定こども園 Nintei kodomo en)

- This facility focusses on education and care of children, whether or not their parent or guardian works.
- If you wish to enroll your child in integrated facility of kindergarten and nursery school, apply to the city office for service with childcare (the same as nursery school), or directly to the facility for service without childcare (the same as kindergarten).

【Refer to】 Integrated facility of Kindergarten and Nursery School ⇒ 5-36

【Inquiries】 Mito City Child Daycare Section

(水戸市幼児保育課 Mitoshi yoji hoiku-ka) Tel 029-232-9243

■ Temporary childcare (一時預かり Ichiji azukari)

- In case parents or guardians cannot take care of their child at home due to illness or emergency, urgent and temporary childcare service is available at nursery school or integrated facilities of kindergarten and nursery school.
- “わんぱーく・みと Wan Park Mito,” “はみんぐぱーく・みと Humming Park Mito” and “Smile Kids” are also available for temporary childcare service.

- 【Refer to】** Temporary childcare
(nursery school, integrated facilities of kindergarten and nursery school) ⇒ 5-37
Temporary childcare (Wan Park Mito, Humming Park Mito, Smile Kids) ⇒ 5-38
- 【Inquiries】** Mito City Child Policy Section
(水戸市こども政策課 Mitoshi kodomo seisaku-ka) Tel 029-350-5577

(4) Support for children with disabilities

■ Transportation service

Disabled children below 18 years old will be able to use transportation services to receive physical instruction for basic movements in daily life, adaptation training to live in a group or community, training to improve viability, or the like.

- 【Inquiries】** Mito City Handicapped Persons Welfare Section
(水戸市障害福祉課 Mitoshi shogai fukushi-ka) Tel 029-350-8084

■ Support Center for Child Development “Sukusuku Mito”

(こども発達支援センター「すくすく・みと」 Kodomo hattatsu shien center “Sukusuku Mito”)
You can consult professional staff about the development and growth of your child under 18 years.

- Mito City Support Center for Child Development “Sukusuku Mito,”
Tel 029-253-3650
4-7-24 Kamimito, Mito City, 310-0041

- 【Refer to】** Mito City Support Center for Child Development “Sukusuku Mito,” ⇒ 5-39

■ Main allowances

There are some allowances available to support children with disabilities and their guardians. Consult the city office if you need any such support.

- **Special Child Development’s Allowance (特別児童扶養手当 Tokubetsu jido fuyo teate)**
Provided to guardians who care at home children under 20 years old with mental/physical disabilities.

- 【Refer to】** Special Child Development’s Allowance ⇒ 5-40

- **Children’s Disability Welfare Allowance (障害児福祉手当 Shogajji fukushi teate)**
Provided to those under 20 years old who need constant special care all the time due to severe mental/physical disabilities.

- 【Refer to】** Children’s Disability Welfare Allowance ⇒ 5-41

•Physical & Mental Disability Welfare Allowance

(心身障害児(者)福祉手当 Shinshin shogaji/sha fukushi teate)

Provided to those who have severe mental/physical disabilities and have lived in Mito for a year and more. Some cases may not be applicable, so contact the city office.

【Refer to】 Physical & Mental Disability Welfare Allowance ⇒ 5-42

【Inquiries】 Mito City Handicapped Persons Welfare Section

(水戸市障害福祉課 Mitoshi shogai fukushi-ka) Tel 029-350-8053

(5)Support for single parents

There are various support systems for single parents.

■ Main support systems

•Child Rearing Allowance (児童扶養手当 Jido fuyo teate)

Provided to guardians who raise children under 18 years old by themselves due to divorce or spouse's death. In the case of children having heavy disabilities, guardians of children under 20 years old are eligible for the allowance.

【Refer to】 Child Rearing Allowance ⇒ 5-43

•Orphan's Allowance (遺児養育手当 Iji yoiku teate)

Provided to those who take care of children without either or both parents due to death until they graduate from senior high school.

【Refer to】 Orphan's Allowance ⇒ 5-44

【Inquiries】 Mito City Child Policy Section

(水戸市子ども政策課 Mitoshi kodomoseisaku-ka) Tel 029-232-9176

•Medical Expense Support System for Single Parent

(ひとり親医療福祉費助成制度Marufuku)

This is a system where a child and his/her parent/guardian in a single parent/guardian family, being enrolled in medical insurance, can receive financial support for their visits to medical institution.

However, a family of high income may not be able to receive such support.

【Refer to】 Medical Expense Support System for Single Parent(Marufuku) ⇒ 5-45

【Inquiries】 Mito City NHI and Pension Section

(水戸市国保年金課Mitoshi kokuho nenkin-ka) Tel 029-232-9166

6 Education

6-1 Elementary School and Junior High School

Guardians who have children of Japanese nationality aged 6 to 15 years must provide them with the opportunity of education. Children of foreign nationalities are entitled to receive education equally for free just like Japanese, though this is not compulsory.



【Period of fees-free education (※Applicable only to public schools)】

Fees-free education covers nine years from elementary to junior high school

In Japan, the school year starts in April and ends in March.

Elementary school···six years (ages from six to twelve years old)

Junior high school···three years (ages from 12 to 15 years old)

- Which school to attend is determined depending on which district you live in. Search on the Mito School District website.
- All lessons are given in Japanese.
- All elementary and junior high schools operated by the city of Mio offer tuition fees and textbooks free of charge.
- School lunch is served with charge at elementary schools and without charge at junior high schools operated by the city of Mito.
- Special support schools and classes are also available for children with disabilities.

■ Procedures for entering / transferring school

You will receive a notice for your preschool children to enroll in elementary school.

If your child has recently come to Japan from abroad, talk to Mito City School Administration Section (水戸市学校管理課 Mitoshi gakkō kanri-ka) first.

If your child must change school because of house-moving in and out of Mito, make sure to consult school.



■ If your child does not understand Japanese

For children in elementary and junior high schools who cannot understand Japanese well, there are Japanese language advisors visiting from school to school in Mito. Once school has been determined for your child, consult the school or Mito City Educational Research Center.

In addition, there is a voluntary class where Japanese is taught for elementary and junior high school students. For details, refer to “6-4 (3) Japanese Class for children,” page 37

■ School Expenses Support System (就学援助制度 Shugaku enjo seido)

If guardians who have children attending elementary or junior high school in Mito have financial problems and are unable to prepare for necessary school expenses, these expenses can be covered by the city government.

【Refer to】

List of elementary and junior high schools ⇒ 6-1

Mito City School Districts search ⇒ 6-2

Special Support School ⇒ 6-3

School Expenses Support System ⇒ 6-4

【Inquiries】

[School district, school enrollment/transfer, and school expenses support system]

Mito City School Administration Section

(水戸市学校管理課 Mitoshi gakko kanri-ka) Tel 029-306-8673

[School meal expenses and health check-up at school]

Mito City School Health and School Lunch

(水戸市学校保健給食課 Mitoshi gakko hoken kyushoku-ka) Tel 029-306-8627

[Consultation on lack of Japanese language proficiency]

Mito City Educational Research Center

(水戸市総合教育研究所 Mitoshi sogo kyoiku kenkyujo) TEL 029-244-6708

6-2 Senior High School (高校 Koko)

In Japan, most students enter senior high school after graduating from junior high school. It's because senior high school education of three years promises more career options in the future to university or various jobs. In order to enter senior high school, students have to pass entrance examinations. Other than senior high schools, there are vocational schools or special training colleges where more practical education leading to successful employment is offered. Talk with your school (homeroom teacher) for advice on future career such as higher education or employment.

【Refer to】 Ibaraki Prefecture “List of High Schools in Ibaraki” ⇒ 6-5

【Inquiries】 Ibaraki Prefectural Board of Education

(茨城県教育委員会 Ibarakiken kyoikuiinkai) Tel 029-301-5251/029-301-5148

6-3 University(大学 Daigaku)

If you are qualified as a senior high school graduate, you can go to university. University is classified as national university and private university. It usually takes four years to graduate from university. Besides university, there are specialized university and junior college as well.

【Refer to】 Ibaraki Prefecture “List of Universities in Ibaraki” ⇒ 6-6

6-4 Japanese language education

When you wish to learn Japanese, you may enter Japanese language school, or you can study in Japanese class organized by local volunteers.

(1) Japanese language school

Various courses are organized for the purpose of higher education, employment, preparations for entrance exams, etc. Professional teachers teach Japanese, with tuition fees charged.

【Refer to】 List of Japanese language schools in Mito ⇒ 6-7

(2) Japanese class (by volunteer groups)

At Mito International Center, volunteer groups hold Japanese classes. While studying basic Japanese necessary for living, students can learn of local information and make friends there. Find the most suitable class for your day and time.

【Refer to】 List of Mito International Center Japanese Classes ⇒ 6-8

Ibaraki International Association “Japanese Classes in Ibaraki” ⇒ 6-9

【Inquiries】 Mito International Center

(水戸市国際交流センター Mitoshi kokusai koryu center) Tel 029-221-1800

(3) Japanese class for children

For children whose mother tongue is not Japanese, volunteer teachers teach Japanese essential in school life once a week at Mito International Center. Class is open for set periods of the year and application is necessary. Talk with school staff for details to apply to Mito City International Association.

【Inquiries】 The school which your child attends or Mito International Center

7 Pension and Welfare

7-1 Pension

There are two types of public pension: “national pension” which every Japanese aged 20 to 59 must join and “employees’ pension” which employees and public servants join.



■ Employees’ pension

When you are employed by company, etc., you join employees’ pension. Your employer will take enrollment procedures for you. Premiums will be deducted automatically from your salary.

■ National pension

When you run your own business without enrollment in employees’ pension, you must join the national pension.

■ Lump-sum withdrawal payment

Foreign nationals who have paid pension premiums for six months and more during stay in Japan are eligible for lump-sum withdrawal payment if they move out of Japan. Claim Japan Pension Service within two years after departure from Japan for such payment.

■ Total period of pension coverage

In some cases, if a foreign national was enrolled in pension system in his/her home country and is enrolled in Japan as well, he/she is eligible for two pensions from both countries by summing up the years of payment. However, this is only allowable when both countries are under such an agreement. If you have received your lump-sum withdrawal payment, the period based on which the lump-sum withdrawal payment was calculated will be excluded from the coverage.

【Refer to】 [Enrollment in employees’ pension]
Japan Pension Service “Pension” ⇒ 7-1

[Enrollment in national pension]
Outline of Japanese National Pension System ⇒ 7-2

[Enrollment in employees’ pension or national pension]
Pension Service “Lump-sum withdrawal payment” ⇒ 7-3
“Social Security Agreement” ⇒ 7-4

【Inquiries】 Mito City NHI and Pension Section
(水戸市国保年金課 Mitoshi kokuho nenkin-ka) Tel 029-232-9529

7-2 Nursing care insurance

Nursing care insurance offers a system where a person, becoming dependent due to aging or needing assistance in eating, bathing, cleaning, etc. in daily living due to illness or disability, can receive necessary care services.

Foreign nationals who are aged 40 years or older and plan to stay in Japan for more than three months are obliged to join the nursing care insurance system. Once enrolled, you need to pay premiums. When using nursing care services, you can receive benefits from the insurance for each service, but a portion of the expenses has to be copaid by you.



■ Premiums

- Premiums are calculated based on your income from salary of the previous year, etc.
- Those aged 40 to 64 years pay nursing-care insurance premiums along with medical insurance premiums
- Those aged 65 years or older will have premiums deducted from “pension” benefit. Until this deduction is implemented the premium has to be paid with a bill.

■ How to use nursing-care service

- ① You can use nursing-care service at the age of 65 and after, except for some special cases.
- ② When you wish to receive nursing-care service, contact the city office first. The necessity of nursing care is evaluated for approval of your nursing-care level.
- ③ After obtaining approval, consult a professional care manager, etc. about suitable services available and have a nursing-care service plan (care plan) made.
- ④ Once your plan is finalized, you can start using nursing-care service.
- ⑤ At the time of using nursing-care service, pay your copay specific to the service received.

[Refer to] Nursing-care insurance system ⇒ 7-5

[Inquiries] Mito City Long-Term Care Insurance Section

(水戸市介護保険課 Mitoshi kaigo hoken-ka) Tel 029-232-9177

7-3 Welfare for disabilities

(1) Certificate of the disabled

This booklet type certificate is necessary for mentally/physically disabled persons to use various services. Several certificates are available for different types of disability. Apply for the appropriate certificate depending on the disability type.

- “Physical disability certificate” (身体障害者手帳 Shintaishogaisha techo)
 - persons with physical disability
- “Medical rehabilitation certificate” (療育手帳 Ryoiku techo)
 - persons with delays in intellectual development
- “Mental disability certificate” (精神障害者保健福祉手帳 Seishinshogaisha fukushi techo)
 - persons having difficulties in daily life due to mental disorders

【Refer to】 Physical disability certificate ⇒ 7-6

Medical rehabilitation certificate ⇒ 7-7

Mental disability certificate ⇒ 7-8

【Inquiries】 Mito City Handicapped Persons Welfare Section

(水戸市障害福祉課 Mitoshi shogai fukushi-ka) Tel 029-232-9173

(2) Use of welfare services for the disabled

Services are used to support persons with disability or malignant disease in solving problems in daily life and leading an independent life.

【Refer to】 Welfare for the disabled ⇒ 7-9

【Inquiries】 Mito City Handicapped Persons Welfare Section

(水戸市障害福祉課 Mitoshi shogai fukushi-ka) Tel 029-350-8084

(3) Medical expense support system for those with severe mental/physical disability

(重度心身障害者の医療福祉費助成制度 Marufuku)

This is a system in which persons with severe disability having medical insurance are able to receive financial support for visits to medical institution. However, those with a high income may be excluded from the system.

【Refer to】 Medical expense support system for those with severe mental/
physical disability(Marufuku) ⇒ 7-10

【Inquiries】 Mito City NHI and Pension Section

(水戸市国保年金課 Mitoshi kokuho nenkin-ka) Tel 029-232-9166

7-4 Welfare benefit (生活保護 Seikatsu hogo)

Any person who is living in poverty even after utilizing all his/her assets and abilities may be able to receive necessary public assistance from the city government according to the level of poverty in order to guarantee a minimum standard of living and promote self-support. A foreign national with a status of residence, whether he/she is a permanent or long-term resident or a spouse of a Japanese national, is also eligible for such public assistance in accordance with the Public Assistance Act. However, the following requirements, etc. have to be met.

■ Requirements for public assistance, etc.

The requirements to receive the public assistance include:

- Utilization of assets

If you have any savings, land, houses, etc. not used for living, sell them all to use as living expenses.

- Utilization of abilities

If you can work, work to the best of your ability.

- Utilization of all other things available

If you are eligible for any other public assistance such as pensions or allowances, use them first.

- Support of dependents

If you can obtain support from relatives, etc. ask them.

【Refer to】 About public assistance ⇒ 7-11

Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare “Public Assistance System” ⇒ 7-12

【Inquiries】 Mito City Life Welfare Section

(水戸市生活福祉課 Mitoshi seikatsu fukushi-ka) Tel 029-232-9171

7-5 Self-reliance support system for needy persons

If you have any difficulty in money, work or life, contact the city office.

You can consult about how to live at ease.

【Inquiries】 Mito City Self-reliance Support Room

(水戸市自立相談支援室 Mitoshi jiritsu sodan shien-shitsu) Tel 029-291-3941

8 Housing and Community

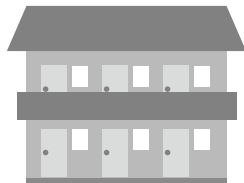
8-1 Renting housing

There are two types of housing offered for rent: “rental housing” and “public housing.”

(1) Rental housing

“Rental housing” refers to houses, apartments, condos, etc. to rent from its owner. People generally go to a real estate agency to find a most favorable house or room. You can search for one to your needs of rent, the number of rooms, area size, etc.

※In Japan, when you sign a rental contract, you may need your “joint guarantor.” Consult your real estate agency to be sure.



【Refer to】 Ministry of Land, Infrastructure,
Transport and Tourism “Apartment Search Guidebook” ⇒ 8-1

(2) Public housing

“Public housing” is provided by the prefecture or the city for low-income people who are in need of housing. In order to apply for “public housing,” you will need to meet various qualifications (your residence status, income, who you live with, etc.) After you apply and are qualified, you can move in.

【Refer to】 Ibaraki Housing Management Center ⇒ 8-2
Ibaraki Prefecture “Public Housing” ⇒ 8-3
Public Housing ⇒ 8-4

【Inquiries】 Ibaraki Housing Management Center
(茨城県住宅管理センター Ibarakiken jutaku kanri center) Tel 029-226-3355

8-2 Moving

(1) Procedures when moving

Refer to “3-2 (2) When changing residence” page 16 and take necessary procedures at the city office.

(2) Removal companies and necessary preparations

If you cannot move your furniture and household goods on your own, you can ask a removal company. There are various services available such as packing, transportation, and furniture setting. Prices vary depending on the company or services you choose.

In the case of rental housing, inform your management company or landlord in advance of your move-out date. In addition, make sure to cancel water, electricity, gas, etc. contracts. (Refer to “8-3 Water, electricity and gas” to take necessary procedures.)

(3) The day of move-out

On the day of your move-out, clean thoroughly the room where you have been living. Do not leave any garbage or unnecessary items. On that day, witness inspection may be necessary to return the property. After the inspection, security deposit, repairs, etc. will be adjusted.

(4) Address change procedures

When you complete your removal to a new residence, make address changes for:
Residence Card, mobile phone, credit card, bank, driver's license, etc.

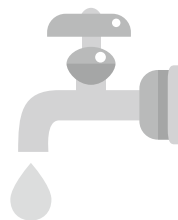
8-3 Water, electricity and gas

(1) Water

■ Start of use

To start water service, do either of the following.

- ① Call the customer center, Mito City Waterworks Department
- ② Fill in "Application for water use" and submit it to the city office.



■ Water charge

- Water bill shows a sum of basic fee and usage (actually used amount) fee.
- The city confirms the amount of water consumed by a user through meter reading and the user is billed bimonthly for fees according to the usage.
- Sewage (toilet water, etc.) usage is billed together with water fees.
- Payment methods include automatic transfer from your bank account, payment at convenience store or bank, payment through smartphone or credit card, etc.

■ Termination of use

To stop water service, do either of the following.

- ① Call the customer center to apply for water termination.
- ② Fill in "Application for water termination" and submit it to the customer center.

※When terminating water use, fees will be adjusted to cover the water usage till the day of termination. Inquire about the adjustment method by phone.

【Refer to】 Start, termination and change of water use ⇒ 8-5

【Inquiries】 Mito City Waterworks Department , Customer center

(水戸市水道部お客様受付センター Mitoshi suido-bu okyakusama uketsuke center)

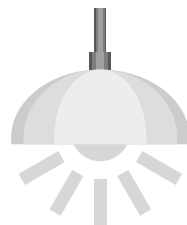
Tel 029-231-4111

(2) Electricity

■ Start of use

When starting to use electricity, follow the steps below:

- ① Decide on the initial day of use.
 - ② Apply to an electric company. (Several companies available for you to choose.)
 - ③ Electricity becomes available when the circuit breaker is switched “on” on the first day of your use.
- ※ Depending on contract terms or housing facilities, the electric company staff need to be present at your residence. In such a case, the electric company will inform you of the visit in advance.



■ Electricity charge

- Depending on the amount and method of your electricity usage, you can choose the terms of contract. Different companies offer different contract types.
- Electricity charges are determined according to the amount of use. The amount of use is confirmed by electricity company staff reading the meter installed at each household. Every month, your electricity company inform you of the reading.
- Payment methods include automatic transfer from your bank account, payment at convenience store or bank or through credit card, etc.

■ Termination of use

To terminate the use of electricity, follow the steps below:

- ① Determined the last day of your use.
 - ② Call your electricity company and take termination procedures.
- ※ On the day of electricity shut-off, the user does not have to be present on site in principle. If the electric meter cannot be checked from outside of your housing, you may have to be present. In such a case, your electricity company will request you to be present.

(3) Gas

Gas is used mainly for cooking stoves in kitchen as well as water heaters for bath.

There are two types of gas used for households in Mito: city gas and propane gas. These two types are different in composition, etc. Which gas to use depends on the region and housing you live in. As for your gas appliances, make sure to select right ones conforming to your gas type.

■ Start of use

To start using gas, follow the steps below:

- ① Decide the date of your first use.
- ② Apply to a gas company. (Several gas companies are available for you to choose.)
- ③ When the day arrives, gas company staff will come to you to inspect all facilities, turn on the gas line and teach you how to use gas appliances.

※When you use kitchen stoves or gas heaters, ensure adequate ventilation.



■ Gas charge

- Depending on the amount or method of your usage, you can choose the terms of contract. Different companies offer different contract types.
- Gas bill shows a sum of basic fee and usage (actually used amount) fee.
- Payment methods include automatic transfer from your bank account, payment at convenience store or bank, through credit card, etc.

■ Termination of use

To terminate the use of gas, follow the steps below:

- ① Determine the last day of your use.
- ② Call your gas company and take the termination procedures.
(If you tell your “Customer Number” the process goes smooth.)
- ③ On the day of gas shut-off, a technician will shut off the gas meter. If the meter is inaccessible to the technician, the user or someone else has to be present to witness.

8-4 Telephone and internet

(1) Telephone

■ Telephone number

- In Japan mobile phone number is comprised of 11 digits, while home phone number is comprised of 10 digits.
- The first two to four digits of the home telephone number differ depending on area, which is called the area code. For Mito it is “029.” When you call from outside of Mito or through mobile phone, this code is necessary.

■ Mobile phone

When you want to buy a mobile phone, go to cellular carrier counters or electronics retail stores. Otherwise, you may be able to purchase one through the Internet.

- Items needed for purchase:

Identification card (Residence Card, driver's license, My Number Card, etc.)

- Items needed for payment procedure:

Credit card and cash card for Japanese bank or bank notebook

■ Public telephone

“Public phones” are installed at stations and public facilities. By inserting 10 yen or 100 yen coin, anyone can use one..

※No change available for partial use of a 100 yen coin.

■ How to make international call

When making an international phone call, dial in the order as follows:

*Carrier's identification code (0033 or 001) +010 +country code
you want to call +area code without 0 +subscriber's number*

(2) The Internet

There are several methods to use the internet at home.

- Cable type: contract for Fiber-Optics using landline
- Wireless type: contract for Wi-Fi using mobile devices
- Communicate through terminals of smartphones (SIM card), etc.

As for cable type internet service, cable TV broadband is also available. Choose one that is most suited to you based on your budget and usage. You should consult home electric appliance shops or cellular carrier shops for advice.

8-5 TV and newspapers

(1) TV

■ TV channels

In Mito there are one terrestrial television channel operated by public broadcaster (NHK) and five terrestrial television channels by commercial broadcasters, all viewable on TV if you have a TV set. Other than the above, broadcasts through broadcasting satellite (BS) and communication satellite (CS) are also available, though most of them are unlikely to be viewed without installing a required device or paying the fee. To receive BS and CS signals, you can talk to electric appliance shops for advice.

■ About public broadcasting (NHK)

Once you install a TV set in your home, you have to pay the reception fee for public broadcasting (NHK).

NHK operates not only a terrestrial but also BS channels, and its fees differ depending on the number of TV sets installed in your home and contract terms.

【Refer to】 NHK “Reception Fee”

(Various languages are available to choose from the menu at the upper right corner)

⇒ 8-6

(2) Newspapers

There are various newspapers issued in Japan. If you wish to read newspapers every day at home, subscribe to a newspaper at newspaper company or agent.

At Mito International Center, Japanese, English and Chinese newspapers are offered for any visitor to read within the premises for free.

■ Newspapers available at Mito International Center

- Ibaraki Shinbun (Japanese) ⇒ 8-7
- The Japan Times and The New York Times (English) ⇒ 8-8
- Chinese Economic Newspaper (Japanese) ⇒ 8-9

8-6 Garbage

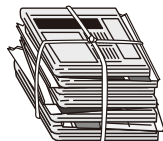
(1) How to separate and dispose of garbage

Sort out household garbage according to types and methods as below and put each out at a designated pick-up spot. (As for your garbage pick-up location, confirm with your neighbors.)

Collection dates are scheduled according to your district of residence and type of garbage, so be sure to confirm in advance. Your garbage should be put out by 8:00am on the day.

■ Resource items ➡ Recyclable garbage

Recyclable as paper



Tie crosswise with a string according to type and put out.

Recyclable as one material



Sort and put out separately in a transparent or half-transparent bag.

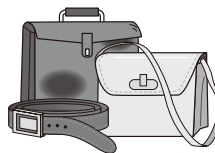
Small electric appliances containing rare metals



Drop in recycling box set at city office, etc.

■ Combustible

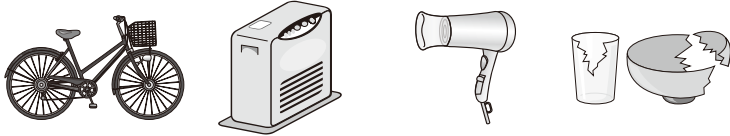
Unrecyclable/Burnable



Put out in a waste bag designated by Mito. (If unable to fit in a bag, apply a waste sticker.)

■ Non-combustible

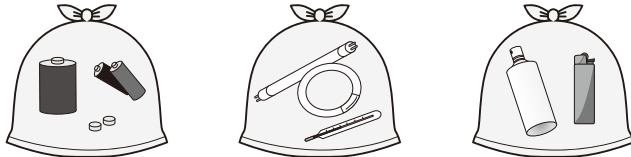
Unrecyclable/Non-burnable



Put out in a waste bag designated by Mito. (If unable to fit in a bag, apply a waste sticker.)

■ Harmful garbage

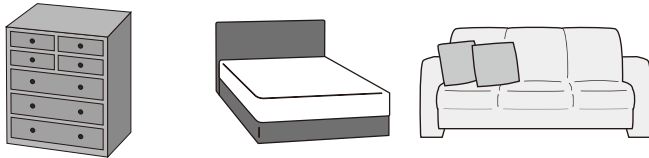
Items whose disposal and treatment involve risk



Sort and put out separately in a transparent or half-transparent bag.

■ Bulk garbage

Large items such as furniture



Apply to call center in advance.

【Refer to】 How to dispose of garbage ⇒ 8-10

【Inquiries】

[Garbage sorting and put-out method in Mito]

Mito City Garbage Reduction Weight Section

(水戸市ごみ減量課 Mitoshi gomi genryo-ka) Tel 029-232-9114

[Collection Schedule and collection spots] Mito City Garbage Disposal Firm

(水戸市清掃事務所 Mitoshi seiso jimusho) Tel 029-297-5821

[Application for bulk waste pick-up] Call center Tel 029-350-8101

8-7 Neighborhood association

There are regional community organizations called “chonai-kai” or “jichi-kai” to maintain good relationships among residents living in the same district and to help each other. People in each region voluntarily act together and foreign residents are welcome to join as well.

■ Main activities

- Share local information
- Clean streets and parks
- Install and manage security lightings
- Make the surrounding environment clean and beautiful
- Participate in disaster preparedness drills
- Organize and take part in communal events and activities

■ When you wish to join chonai-kai or jichi-kai

- ① Visit your neighbor or nearby community center to get information on chairperson of your residence district.
- ② Apply to the chairperson directly.

■ Mito chonai-kai/jichi-kai card

When you become a chonai-kai member of your residence district, “Mito chonai-kai/jichi-kai card” will be provided. By presenting the card to member shops, you will be able to receive various special courtesy services (discount, point addition, service item, etc.)

■ Community center(市民センター Shimin center)

Shimin center refers to a community center allocated in 34 different districts. As a base of each district, the center offers various services and activities.

【Refer to】 Neighborhood association ⇒ 8-11

List of Shimin centers ⇒ 8-12

【Inquiries】 Mito City Community Support Activities Section

(水戸市市民生活課 Mitoshi shimin seikatsu-ka) Tel 029-232-9151

8-8 Pets

(1) When keeping a pet

An “owner” of a pet is responsible for observing the following to keep his/her pet healthy and comfortable.

- Understand animals properly, and take good and life-long care of your pet.
- Try not to trouble your neighbors.
- Not to give up your pet, avoid excessive breeding.
- Have sufficient information on infections caused by animals.



- Not to let your pet run away watch him/her attentively.

Most rental housing will not allow you to keep pets. Before starting to keep a pet, make sure to confirm the terms and conditions of your rental contract. Train your dog not to cause troubles with neighbors.

【Refer to】 To pet owners: Rules and Regulations for keeping cats ⇒ 8-13

(2) Keeping a pet dog

- In Mito, dogs cannot be left loose. Always be careful not to let your dog go.
- When taking your dog for a walk, make sure to keep it on a leash.
- Never leave your dog's feces during walk and take home for disposal.

■ Dog registration

To keep a pet dog, you have to register it within 30 days from the date you become the owner. After registration, you will have a license plate issued. You must attach this plate to your dog's collar, for example.

- Registration fee: 3,000 yen per dog

- Registration venue:

Mito city Animal Protection Center

(水戸市動物愛護センター Mitoshi dobutsu aigo center)(999 Kawawada-cho, Mito City)

Veterinary clinics in Mito (Not all clinics. Confirm in advance.)

■ Submission of registration change and notification

You are required to take the necessary procedures when:

- You have moved in Mito with a pet dog.
- The dog's owner has been changed.
- Your dog has died.

■ Vaccination

If you own a dog of 90 days or older, you must have it vaccinated against rabies once a year.

There are two ways to receive vaccination.

❖ Group vaccination

- Vaccination shots are given at group vaccination venue. Fees are charged.
- There will be a large crowd of dogs at the vaccination site. Each dog must be led by a person who can take full control of violent actions in case the dog becomes too excited.

❖ Individual vaccination

Vaccination shots are given at veterinary clinics. Fees vary among clinics.

※After vaccination, you will have a plate certificate for rabies shot issued. You must attach this certificate plate to the dog's collar, etc. similarly to the license plate.

【Refer to】 To dog owners: About dog registration and rabies vaccination ⇒ 8-14

【Inquiries】 Mito city Animal Protection Center Tel 029-350-3800

(3) Keeping a pet cat

In Mito pet cats are required to be kept inside the house by municipal order. If you can not keep your cat indoors, have it sterilized or castrated and use a collar with information traceable to the owner.

【Refer to】 To cat owners: Rules and Regulations for keeping cats ⇒ 8-15

【Inquiries】 Mito city Animal Protection Center Tel 029-350-3800

8-9 Post office and delivery service

(1) Post office

Japan Post operates postal, banking and insurance businesses. Various services are offered at post offices found throughout Japan, including:

- Delivering letters and packages, etc. (domestic/international)
- Opening a multipurpose account
- Remittance (domestic/overseas), fee transfer (payment) and money exchange
- Handling insurance

【Refer to】 Japan Post Co., Ltd. “Find Post Offices” ⇒ 8-16

(2) Delivery service

When you want to send packages (larger than letters), private delivery service companies are recommended. Fees and services differ among companies.

■ Major package delivery service companies

- Japan Post Co., Ltd. ⇒ 8-17
- Yamato Transport Co., Ltd. ⇒ 8-18
- Sagawa Express Co., Ltd. ⇒ 8-19

8-10 Bank and digital money

(1) Bank

■ Opening a bank account

A bank account can be used to withdraw and deposit money such as salary or savings. Once an account is opened, the payment method of automatic withdrawal called “account-to-account transfer (koza furikae)” becomes available, which makes various money transactions very convenient.

❖ Items needed to open an account

- Residence Card, passport
- Seal (seal for bank transactions)

※For security reason, the seal should be different from your registered or other seals.

- Employee ID card or Student ID card

※Your application for bank account cannot be accepted if your permitted period of stay expires within three months.

※For details of overseas remittance, inquire of respective financial institutions

■ About ATM

ATM is a machine through which you can make withdrawals from or deposits in your bank account. The machine is generally installed at banks, convenience stores, etc. Hours available are specified, with some fees charged depending on time and usage. Some ATMs are available in foreign languages.

(2) Digital money

As a settlement method without using cash, you can use digital money. There are many types, each with a specific method and occasion of use:

cards requiring advance charging, credit cards usable after setting the payment method, or others.

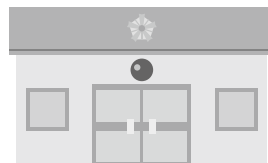
■ Major smart card

- Transportation related: used for train/bus transportation
(IC cards including Suica, PASMO, Ibappi etc., Mobile Suica, and the like)
- Prepaid, distribution and commerce related: usable at convenience stores, supermarkets, etc.
(nanaco, WAON, Rakuten Edy, etc.)
- Mobile payment, QR code payment: make payment via smartphone, etc.
(Apple Pay, PayPay, LINE pay, etc.)

8-11 Police box and residential police box

■ Police box and residential police box

Police boxes and residential police boxes are the place to go for help when you are involved in a crime or trouble, lost your property, etc. Confirm in advance the locations of your nearest police box or residential police box.



【Refer to】 Ibaraki Police “List of police boxes and residential police boxes”⇒ 8-20

【Inquiries】 Ibaraki Prefectural Police (茨城県警察 Ibarakiken keisatsu) Tel 029-233-0110

9 Transportation



9-1 Cars and motorbikes

(1) Basic rules

- In Japan, cars, motorbikes and bicycles follow the left-hand traffic.
- Driving under influence of alcohol is severely punished.
- Driving without driver's license is also severely punished.
- Driving while using a mobile phone is prohibited.
- A driver and passenger(s) must have a seatbelt fastened while driving.
- When driving with children under six years old, use child safety seats for them.
- When driving on motorbike, be sure to wear a helmet on.

【Refer to】 Metropolitan Police Department “Japan’s Traffic Rules” ⇒ 9-1
Ibaraki Prefectural Police “Wearing a child seat” ⇒ 9-2

(2) Driver's License

In order to drive a car or a motorbike (moped of less than 125cc and motorcycle of more than 125cc) in Japan, you must have one of the following licenses:

- ① Japanese Driver's License
- ② International Driving Permit based on the Convention on Road Traffic (Geneva Convention)
- ③ Driving License of the following countries that do not issue international driving license:
Republic of Estonia, Swiss Confederation, Federal Republic of Germany, French Republic, Kingdom of Belgium, Principality of Monaco, Taiwan (As of June 2020)

【Refer to】

Metropolitan Police Department

“How to drive in Japan with an international driving license acquired abroad” ⇒ 9-3

【Inquiries】 Ibaraki Prefectural Police Driver's License Center

(茨城県警察運転免許センター Ibarakiken keisatsu unten menkyo center)

Tel 029-293-8811

3783-3 Nagaoka, Ibaraki-machi, 311-3116

Driving License Telephone Guide Tel 029-293-8060

(3) Acquiring Japanese Driving License (for a person with a driving license issued abroad)

When transferring your foreign driving license to a Japanese one, you have to take and pass the written and driving tests as well as the aptitude test. Depending on nationality, some are exempt from the writing and driving tests..

【Refer to】 Ibaraki Prefectural Police “Transfer of Foreign Driving License to Japanese one” ⇒ 9-4

【Inquiries】 Ibaraki Prefectural Police Driver’s License Center Tel 029-293-8811
Driver’s License Telephone Guide Tel 029-293-8060

(4) Acquiring Japanese Driving License (for a person without driving license)

If a foreign national, having no driving license, wishes to obtain a Japanese driving license, follow either of the two:

- Take both written and driving tests at Driver’s License Center
- Attend a driving school, and after passing a driving test take the written test at Driver’s License Center

Your driving license acquired has an expiry date, so make sure to renew it regularly.

■ Driving schools in Mito

Ibarakiken Jidosha Gakko 茨城県自動車学校, Tel 029-247-6131
260 Tono-cho, Mito City, 310-0846

Showa Jidosha Kyoshujo 昭和自動車教習所, Tel 029-241-03000
1987 Senba-cho, Mito City, 310-0851

Mito Daiichi Jidosha Gakko 水戸第一自動車学校, Tel 029-251-5233
1-846-2 Himego, Mito City, 311-4151

【Inquiries】 Ibaraki Prefectural Police Driver’s License Center Tel 029-293-8811

(5) Insurance

An owner of a car or motorbike must have automobile liability insurance (jibaiseki hoken) to prepare for compensation for any possible traffic accident damages. In addition to that, voluntary insurance should be bought as well to have sufficient compensations. Apply at the car dealer where you bought your car/motorcycle, or at an insurance company.

【Refer to】 Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
“Comprehensive Safety Information for Automobiles” ⇒ 9-5

(6) Parking space

In order to own a car, you need to secure a parking lot (space for parking), and in addition to have a garage certificate indicating the valid parking space. When you buy a car, ask your car dealer for advice or see below.

【Refer to】 Ibaraki Prefectural Police “Application for Parking Space Certificate” ⇒ 9-6

【Inquiries】 Mito Police Station(水戸警察署 Mito keisatsu-sho) Tel 029-233-0110
Ibaraki Prefectural Police HQ Traffic Control Section
(茨城県警察交通規制課 Ibarakiken keisatsu kotsu kisei-ka)
Tel 029-301-0110

(7) Vehicle inspection (shaken)

An owner of a car or motorcycle has to have his/her vehicle inspected regularly. For details, inquire of the car shop where you bought your car/motorcycle, gas station, auto suppliers, etc.

9-2 Bicycles

(1) Basic driving rules

- Bicycles are, in principle, ridden on the left side of the road.
- There are some special cases when bicycles may be ridden on sidewalks; for example, when signs “approving bicycle traffic” are posted, the rider is a child, senior or disabled person, or it is considered dangerous to ride on the road with heavy traffic. When riding on the road, give priority to pedestrians and go slowly along the left side of the road.
- Drunken driving, riding double on a bike and parallel riding are prohibited.
- Turn on the light at night.
- Children must wear a helmet.



【Refer to】 Metropolitan Police Department “Japan’s Traffic Rules” ⇒ 9-1
Ibaraki Prefectural Police “Five Rules for Bicycle Safety” ⇒ 9-7

【Inquiries】 Ibaraki Prefectural Police HQ Traffic and General Affairs Section
(茨城県警察交通総務課 Ibarakiken keisatsu kotsu somu-ka)
Tel 029-301-0110

(2) Bicycle theft prevention registration

If you own a bicycle, “bicycle theft prevention registration” is compulsory. The registration can be done at a bicycle shop when you buy a bicycle.

【Inquiries】 Ibaraki Prefectural Police HQ Traffic and General Affairs Section Tel 029-301-0110

(3) Parking for bicycles, etc.

In the surrounding areas of Mito Station and Akatsuka Station, make sure to park your bicycle at the following parking lots. Parking at the other areas is prohibited, and the bicycle, if left unattended for a long period of time, will be removed.

Parking	Telephone No.
Mito Sta., north exit, basement	029-228-3220
Mito Sta., south exit, east bldg., west bldg.	029-224-5140
Akatsuka Sta., north exit	029-252-8381
Akatsuka Sta., south exit	029-255-4108

【Refer to】 How to use parking for bicycles, etc. ⇒ 9-8

No bicycle parking zones ⇒ 9-9

【Inquiries】 Mito City Life Safety Section

(水戸市生活安全課 Mitoshi seikatsu anzen-ka) Tel 029-224-1113

9-3 Railway

There are three lines running into Mito Station: the JR Joban line (Inbound: for Tokyo, outbound: for Fukushima and Miyagi), the JR Suigun line (for Daigo and Fukushima Prefecture Koriyama City) and the Kashima Rinkai Tetsudo. From Tomobe Station, you can go to the Tochigi Prefecture Oyama City area through the JR Mito line.



When using a train, you need to buy a ticket at station.

IC cards and commuter passes are convenient for those who ride a train frequently.

■ IC Card (Suica, etc.)

If you charge beforehand your IC card with a certain amount of money at a ticket vending machine, you can pass through the gate simply by touching it on the reader of the gate. If the amount left in your card is not sufficient, the gate will not let you pass through. In addition, there is another convenient method of using your mobile phone; download the app on your phone to make member registration and use it as a pass (Mobile Suica, etc.)

■ Pass (for commuting and attending school)

During the valid period, within the routes designated at the time of purchase, the pass will allow you to use a train anytime an unlimited number of times.

All detailed information such as train route maps, transfer information, timetables, operation status, fares, types of tickets and methods of purchase can be found on the JR East Japan website, or inquire of the “Midori-no-madoguchi” Ticket Reservation Office at Mito Station.

【Refer to】 [Transfer information, timetables, etc.]JR EAST Japan Railway Company ⇒ 9-10

[Route maps]JR EAST “Railway Lines Network” ⇒ 9-11

【Inquiries】 Mito Station “Midori-no-madoguchi”

9-4 Local route bus

Local route buses operated in Mito City connect the center of the city to suburban areas and surrounding cities, towns and villages, starting at JR Mito Station.



(1)How to ride a bus

Board at a designated bus spot specific to each route. Details are as follows.

- ① Get on a bus through the rear or center door.
- ② To pay the fare, pull out a numbered ticket from the machine installed next to the door
- ③ Listen to the announcement carefully. When you hear the name of your desired bus stop, press the get-off button. The get-off button is found on the wall or near the windows.
- ④ Look at the fare indications displayed on the fare chart board in front. The amount found just below the number which coincides with the number on your ticket shows the fare to pay.
- ⑤ Prepare cash (coins). Exchange in bus is possible only for 50 yen, 100 yen, 500 yen coins and 1,000 yen bill. Other than cash, IC cards can be used.
- ⑥ Throw the ticket and cash in the fare box found next to the driver and get off.

【Refer to and inquire】

Ibaraki Kotsu Co., Ltd. ⇒ 9-12 Tel 029-251-2335

Kanto Railway Co., Ltd. ⇒ 9-13 Tel 029-247-5111

Kantetsu Green Bus Co., Ltd. ⇒ 9-14 Tel 0291-33-3181

Bus Route Map (starting from Mito Station) ⇒ 9-15

Bus Route Map (starting from Akatsuka Station) ⇒ 9-16

9-5 Highway bus

Starting from the city of Mito highway buses run to various cities. Board at a bus stop specified to each route. Tickets should be bought in advance at the respective bus companies’ sales offices or convenience stores, or from the bus driver when boarding. Please note you cannot get on the highway bus which does not require reservation but is fully occupied at the time of boarding.

(1) Main routes of highway buses

■ To Tokyo Station

【Inquires】 Ibaraki Kotsu Co., Ltd. Hamada Sales Office, Tel 029-231-5268
Kanto Railway Co., Ltd. Mito Sales Office, Tel 029-247-5111
JR Bus Kanto, Mito Branch Office, Tel 029-221-2836

■ To Narita Airport (reservation necessary)

【Inquiries】 Ibaraki Kotsu Co., Ltd. Katsuta Sales Office, Tel 029-272-7311

■ To Haneda Airport (reservation necessary)

【Inquiries】 Ibaraki Kotsu Co., Ltd. Katsuta Sales Office, Tel 029-273-7311

■ To Ibaraki Airport

【Inquiries】 Ibaraki Kotsu Co., Ltd. Ota Sales Office, Tel 0294-72-2191
Kanto Railway Co., Ltd. Mito Sales Office, Tel 029-247-5111

【Refer to】 Ibaraki Kotsu Co., Ltd. Highway Bus ⇒ 9-17
Kanto Railway Co., Ltd. Highway Bus ⇒ 9-18
JR Bus Kanto ⇒ 9-19

9-6 Ibaraki Airport

Domestic and international flights bound for various destinations are operated from Ibaraki Airport. You can reach the airport within one hour by using highway bus or by your own car (free parking available), which is very convenient.

Location: 1601-55 Yozawa, Omitama City, Tel 0299-37-2800

【Refer to】 Ibaraki Airport ⇒ 9-20



10 About Mito City

10-1 Outlines of Mito City

Mito City is located in the central part of Ibaraki Prefecture, and enjoys comparatively warm weather throughout the year excluding the winter season of rather severe cold. It flourished as the biggest castle town in the Kanto area which was governed by the Mito Tokugawa family, one of the three privileged Tokugawa branch families since the Edo era. When the Meiji era arrived, the Ibaraki Prefectural office was placed in Mito and since then the city has been developed as a center of administration, commerce and culture.

On April 1, 2020, the city was first designated as a core city in Ibaraki Prefecture, playing a role of the leader of the surrounding cities, towns and villages in Ibaraki.

■ **Population** 269,321 (As of May 1, 2020)

■ **Area** 217.43km²

【Refer to】 About Outlines of Mito City ⇒ 10-1

【Inquiries】 Mito City Policy Planning Section

(水戸市政策企画課 Mitoshi seisaku kikaku-ka) Tel 029-232-9104

10-2 Notable features in Mito

(1) **Kairakuen park [偕楽園]** (1-1251 Migawa, Mito City, Tel 029-244-5454)

Kairakuen park, one of the “Nihon San Meien” meaning three grandest Japanese gardens, is known throughout Japan as a plum park. It was built in 1842 by the ninth lord of the Mito domain, Nariaki Tokugawa.

Kairakuen park was named to mean a park for the public as well as for the lord to enjoy together. In the park of 13 ha, approximately 3,000 plum trees of 100 species are planted and bloom in early spring. Some other flowers such as Kirishima azaleas and Miyagino bush clovers also blossom out in full glory in early summer and autumn, respectively.



【Refer to】 Ibaraki tourism ⇒ 10-2

(2) **Kodokan [弘道館]** (1-6-29 Sannomaru, Mito City, Tel 029-231-4725)

Kodokan is a “hanko” built in 1841 by the ninth lord, Nariaki Tokugawa. Hanko originally referred to a domain school to educate young samurais of the domain in the Edo era. Kodokan was then one of the largest schools in the country where the youths were able to learn not only martial arts but also a broad range of academic discipline involving medical/pharmaceutical science, astronomy, westerns studies, etc. as in today’s university.

【Refer to】 Ibaraki tourism ⇒ 10-3

(3) Senbako Lake [千波湖]

Located in the southeast of Kairakuen park, the lake has a circumference of 3.1 km. It is noted for fountains with night-time illumination, a café with a magnificent view of the lake, a jogging trail lined with about 700 cherry trees that bloom in spring, and more. The area is loved by every citizen as a place of recreation and relaxation.



【Refer to】 Mito Tourism and Convention Association ⇒ 10-4

(4) Art Tower Mito [水戸芸術館 Mito Geijutsukan]

(1-6-8 Goken-cho, Mito City, Tel 029-227-8111)

The ATM complex, consisting of a concert hall, a theater, a contemporary art gallery, etc. was built to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Mito's municipalization. It is symbolized by the spiral tower (100m high) from where a whole view of the city can be enjoyed.



【Refer to】 Art Tower Mito ⇒ 10-5

(5) Mito City Civic Center [水戸市民会館 Mito Shiminkaikan]

(1-7-1 Izumi-cho, Mito City, Tel 029-303-6226)

Mito City Civic Center was opened to the public in July, 2023, as a base of cultural activities for the citizens of Mito. Equipped with a large hall holding a capacity of 2,000 seats, the biggest in Ibaraki Prefecture, as well as medium and small halls, conference rooms, studios, exhibition room, etc., the center boasts of its size and facilities that can respond at high level to various events such as concert, theater, ceremony and lecture.



【Refer to】 Mito City Civic Center ⇒ 10-5-1

(6) Ibaraki Prefectural Museum of History [茨城県立歴史館 Ibarakikenritsu Rekishikan]

(2-1-15 Midori-cho, Mito City, Tel 029-225-4425)

Other than fine arts and crafts produced in Ibaraki, documents and materials related to the prefecture's history are displayed. In its premises stand a farm house of the Edo era and a western style school building of the Meiji era, both relocated and restored. The museum is also famous for its large garden with abundance of trees and plants; especially the fall foliage of ginkgo trees is exquisite.

【Refer to】 Ibaraki Prefectural Museum of History ⇒ 10-6

(7) The Museum of Modern Art, Ibaraki [茨城県立近代美術館 Ibarakikenritsu Kindaibijutsukan]

(666-1 Higashikubo Senba-cho, Mito City, Tel 029-243-5111)

Located beside the richly green Senbako, the museum has a large collection of modern and contemporary artworks both from within Japan and abroad, featuring works of artists from Ibaraki such as Taikan Yokoyama. As themed events, talks by curators and concerts are occasionally held as well.

【Refer to】 The Museum of Modern Art, Ibaraki ⇒ 10-7

10-3 Main facilities in Mito

(1) Offices for administrative procedures

Facility	Address	Tel
Mito City Hall ⇒ 10-8		
Main Office	1-4-1 Chuo, Mito City	029-224-1111
Uchihara Branch Office	1395-1 Uchihara-cho, Mito City	029-259-2211
Akatsuka Branch Office	1851-5 Otsuka-cho, Mito City	029-251-3211
Tsunezumi Branch Office	2134 Ogushi-cho, Mito City	029-269-2111
Ibaraki Prefectural Office ⇒ 10-9	978-6 Kasahara-cho, Mito City	029-301-1111

(2) Tax offices

Facility	Address	Tel
Mito Tax Office ⇒ 10-10	1-17 Kitami-cho, Mito City	029-231-4211
Mito Prefectural Tax Office ⇒ 10-11	1-3-1 Saku-machi, Mito City	029-221-4803

(3) International exchange / immigration

Facility	Address	Tel
Mito International Center ⇒ 10-12	6-59 Bizen-machi, Mito City	029-221-1800
Ibaraki International Association ⇒ 10-13	745 Senba-cho, Mito City The Hirosawa City Kaikan Annex	029-241-1611
Passport Center ⇒ 10-14	1-5-38 Sannomaru, Mito City Sannomaru Prefectural Office 1F	029-226-5023
Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau Mito Branch Office ⇒ 10-15	1-1 Kitami-cho, Mito City Mito Legal Affairs Joint Gov't Bldg. 1F	029-300-3601

(4) Cultural facilities

Facility	Address	Tel
Art Tower Mito ⇒ 10-5	1-6-8 Goken-cho, Mito City	029-227-8111
Mito City Civic Center ⇒ 10-5-1	1-7-1 Izumi-cho, Mito City	029-303-6226
The Hirosawa City Kaikan (Cultural Center for Citizens of Ibaraki) ⇒ 10-16	745 Ushirokawa Senba-cho, Mito City	029-241-1166
Mito City Museum ⇒ 10-17	3-3-20 Omachi, Mito City	029-226-6521
Ibaraki Prefectural Museum of History ⇒ 10-6	2-1-15 Midori-cho, Mito City	029-225-4425
The Museum of Modern Art, Ibaraki ⇒ 10-7	666-1 Higashikubo Senba-cho, Mito City	029-243-5111
Prefecture's Lifelong Learning Center, Mito ⇒ 10-18	1-5-38 Sannomaru, Mito City Sannomaru Prefectural Office	029-228-1313

(5) Libraries

Facility	Address	Tel
Ibaraki Prefectural Library ⇒ 10-19	1-5-38 Sannomaru, Mito City	029-221-5569
Mito City Library ⇒ 10-20		
Central Library	3-3-20 Omachi, Mito City	029-226-3951
East Library	1973-27 Motoyoshida-cho, Mito City	029-248-4051
West Library	2311-1 Hori-cho, Mito City	029-255-5651
Miwa Library	2-500-2 Miwa, Mito City	029-350-2051
Tsunezumi Library	2134-2 Okushi-cho, Mito City	029-269-1751
Uchihara Library	1497-16 Uchihara-cho, Mito City	029-291-6451

(6) Sports facilities

Facility	Address	Tel
City Facilities ⇒ 10-21		
Mito City Sports Park	2256 Migawa-cho, Mito City	029-243-0111
Aoyagi Park	864-6 Suifu-cho, Mito City	029-225-6931
K's Denki Stadium Mito (Mito City Athletic Field)	2058-1 Kobuki-cho, Mito City	029-241-8484
Twin Field (Mito City Soccer/Rugby Field)	3438-1 Kawawada-cho, Mito City	029-257-6690
Adastria Mito Arena (Azuma-cho Sports Park)	2-3-10 Midori-cho, Mito City	029-303-6335
Horihara Sports Park ⇒ 10-22	2-11-1 Shinhara, Mito City	029-251-8444

(7) Health, Welfare and Pension

Facility	Address	Tel
Mito City Public Health Center ⇒ 10-23		
Mito City Public Health Center	993-13 Kasahara, Mito City	029-305-6290
Tsunezumi Community Health Center	472-1 Oba-cho, Mito City	029-269-5285
Uchihara Community Health Center	1384-2 Uchihara-cho, Mito City	029-259-6411
Animal Protection Center	999 Kawawada-cho, Mito City	029-350-3800
Childcare Support and Multigenerational Exchange Center ⇒ 10-24		
Wan Park Mito	3-4-30 Omachi, Mito City	029-303-1515
Humming Park Mito	1-8-2 Hon-cho, Mito City	029-302-3662
Pension office		
Mitominami Branch Office ⇒ 10-25	2-5-17 Yanagi-machi, Mito City	029-227-3278
Mitokita Branch Office ⇒ 10-26	2-3-32 Omachi, Mito City	029-231-2283

(8) Police

Facility	Address	Tel
Ibaraki Prefectural Police ⇒ 10-27	978-6 Kasahara-cho, Mito City	029-301-0110
Ibaraki Prefectural Police Driver's License Center ⇒ 10-28	3783-3 Nagaoka, Ibaraki-machi	029-293-8811
Mito Police Station ⇒ 10-29	1-5-21 Sannomaru, Mito City	029-233-0110

(9) Courthouse

Facility	Address	Tel
Mito District Court ⇒ 10-30	1-1-38 Omachi, Mito City	029-224-8408
Mito Summary Court ⇒ 10-31	〃	029-224-8284
Mito Family Court ⇒ 10-32	〃	029-224-8513

(10) Legal Affairs Bureau, etc.

Facility	Address	Tel
Mito District Legal Affairs Bureau ⇒ 10-33	1-1 Kitami-cho, Mito City Mito Legal Affairs Joint Gov't Bldg. 1F	029-227-9911
Mito Joint Notary Public's Office ⇒ 10-34	1-5-15 Sakuragawa, Mito City Toshi Bldg. 6F	029-231-5328

(11) Post office

Facility	Address	Tel
Mito Central Post Office ⇒ 10-35	1-4-29 Sannomaru, Mito City	0570-943-214

(12) Railway stations

Facility	Address
Joban Line (JR East)	
Mito Station ⇒ 10-36	1-1 Miya-machi, Mito City
Akatsuka Station ⇒ 10-37	1-1866 Akatsuka, Mito City
Uchihara Station ⇒ 10-38	69 Uchihara-cho, Mito City
Oarai Kashima Line (Kashima Rinkai Tetsudo) ⇒ 10-39	
Higashimito Station	1426-3 Yoshinuma-cho, Mito City
Tsunezumi Station	3300-2 Shiozaki-cho, Mito City

10-4 Major consultation services available in Mito

Issues concerned	Consulting organization	Address & Tel
Resident status, labor, education, and others involving living in general	Ibaraki International Association Consultation Center for Foreigners ⇒ 10-40	745 Ushirokawa, Senba-cho, Mito City The Hirosawa City Kaikan Annex 2F Tel 029-244-3811
Employment consultation for job seekers in and around Mito City	Hello Work Mito ⇒ 10-41	1573-1 Suifu-cho, Mito City Tel 029-231-6221
	Ibaraki Foreign Worker Support Center ⇒ 10-42	745 Ushirokawa, Senba-cho, Mito City The Hirosawa City Kaikan Annex 1F Tel 029-239-3304
Working conditions	Ibaraki Labor Bureau Advisory Service for Foreign Workers (telephone appointment needed) ⇒ 10-43	1-8-31 Miyamachi, Mito City Ibaraki Labor General Gov't Bldg. Tel 029-224-6214
Bullying, school refusal, friendships, sexuality, home/school life	Child Hotline (for kids only) ⇒ 10-44	Tel 029-221-8181
Confirmed or suspected child abuse	Ibaraki Central Child Consultation Center ⇒ 10-45	864-16 Suifu-cho, Mito City Tel 029-221-4150
	Ibaraki Child Abuse Hotline ⇒ 10-46	Tel 0293-22-0293 (24 hours available)
	Child Consultation Room ⇒ 10-47	Mito City Children's Affairs Section Tel 029-232-9111
Concerns and worries regarding development or growth of children up to 18 yrs old	Child Development Support Center "Sukusuku Mito" ⇒ 10-48	4-7-24 Kamimito, Mito City Tel 029-253-3650
Various troubles of juveniles Bullying, problem behaviors, etc.	Mito Educational Research Center Bullying and juvenile consultation ⇒ 10-49	978-5 Kasahara-cho, Mito City Tel 029-244-1347
Various worries specific to women, matters related to DV, etc.	Mito City Spousal Violence Counseling and Support Center ⇒ 10-50	Mito City Children's Affairs Section Tel 029-232-9111
Damages from stalker crime and DV	Ibaraki Prefectural Police HQ Telephone consultation service for women ⇒ 10-51	Ibaraki Prefectural Police HQ Tel 029-301-8107
With an aim of preventing suicides, consultation for those with various troubles, depressed in loneliness and fear	Ibaraki Inochi No Denwa (telephone counselling service) ⇒ 10-52	Tel 029-350-1000

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