

The following are translations of news articles found in the Japanese edition.



Why Not Try a Simple Health Checkup via Smartphone?

A simple health checkup will be conducted entirely via smartphone, from the application process to confirmation of the test results, with the aim to promote an interest in one's health while still young. The applicant limit may be reached before the application deadline so please be sure to apply as soon as possible.

[Eligibility] Individuals 20 ~ 39 years of age

Fee Free

[Applicant Limit] The first 1,515 people who apply

[Application Period] Monday, January 24th ~ Sunday, February 20th [Application Method] Those eligible will be sent further instructions

individually, so please apply via smartphone or computer.

[Checkup Process] Testing kit arrives directly to the applicant's house within roughly a week of applying → collect small blood sample etc. and send back → test results delivered roughly 2 weeks later via email

Contact Health Promotion Department's Health Management Section

2 575-1116









Admission Announcements Sent to Upcoming **Elementary and Middle School Students**

Admission announcements are being mailed to eligible individuals for enrollment at Date Municipal Elementary and Middle School around late January (announcements for students eligible for middle school will be distributed at their elementary school). Please contact the School Education Department if the announcement doesn't arrive by the end of January.

Contact School Education Department's General Affairs Management Section **☎** 573-5824



Loaning Emergency Alert Devices for Daily Reassurance

These alert devices (included with the device are a pendant-style button and fire alarm) are being lent to provide prompt and appropriate responses to emergencies, such as sudden illness or disasters, that elderly people may face when living alone. The device uses a landline.



[Eligibility] Elderly people 65 years or older living alone or left alone throughout the day, as well as people with severe disabilities.

* For those interested, that are not included in the above-mentioned, please consult with the Elderly Welfare Department.

[Application Method] Please turn in an application form to any of the branch offices in advance (those in Hobara, please go directly to the Elderly Welfare Dept.) Application documents can be obtained at the branch offices or city website.

[Base cost] Base cost: 2,695 yen monthly. Call charges are required separately. * The base cost will be borne by the city for resident tax exempt households.

[Contact] Elderly Welfare Department's Community-based

Comprehensive Care Promotion Section **☎** 575-1125







Picture of the Month "Kamakura"

Kamakura is a Japanese snow hut.



Application Deadline for the Fukushima Prefecture Offshore Earthquake Victim Fund is Nearing

The Disaster Victims Livelihood Recovery Support System provides financial support to households whose livelihood has been significantly damaged by the Fukushima Prefecture Offshore Earthquake that occurred on February 13, 2021, in order to aid in the recuperation of their everyday lives.

Please confirm if you have completed the application for the victim fund.

[Eligibility] Households living within the city at the time of the Fukushima Prefecture Offshore Earthquake on February 13, 2021, whose residence was given an official building destruction or demolition grade by City Hall. For questions regarding the building destruction or demolition grading scale, please see the contact details below.

Application Deadline:

- ① Basic Financial Support… Saturday, March 12th, 2022.
- ② Supplemental Financial Support… Tuesday, March 12th, 2024.



Free Tax-Related Consultations with a Tax Accountant

[Date] Monday, February 14th ~ Wednesday, March 9th 10 AM ~ 4 PM * Excluding weekends and national holidays

[Place] Fukushima Tax Consultation Bureau (14-29 Moriai-cho, Fukushima-shi)

Consultation Details Consultation Details: Income tax, inheritance tax, donation tax, or other tax-related topics (In-person consultation only. Consultation time is 30 min.)

[Reservation] Please reserve an appointment via phone. (Reception hours: Weekdays 9:30 AM \sim 4:30 PM)

[Contact] Fukushima Tax Consultation Bureau ☎ 024-534-3907



J-ALERT Information Transmission Drill

[Date] Wednesday February 16th at 11 AM

In preparation for the occurrence of an earthquake, etc., an information transmission drill will be conducted through the J-ALERT system. It will be broadcast from the emergency broadcast system and through portable J-ALERT radio receivers.

[Details] Broadcast details… "This is a J-ALERT test." (3 times) "This is Date City."

[Additional Information] The information will also be transmitted to the Date City Disaster Prevention app, the official Date City Twitter, and email addresses registered to receive information from the city.

[Contact] Disaster Prevention and Crisis Management Department's Crisis Management Section ☎ 575-1197



Document Collection Exhibition: Understanding the Illustrations and Maps of Past Hobara

Date City's unique documents will be exhibited from the museum's collection. The exhibition is an analysis of the town's transition from the Edo period to the Showa period, using materials, such as Edo period village illustrations, remaining from the Hobara of old.

[Time and Date] Saturday, February 5th ~ Sunday, April 10th 9 AM ~ 5 PM (Last entry is 4:30 PM)

[Place] Hobara History and Culture Museum

[Admission Fee]

Adults: 210 yen

Elementary and Middle School Students: 100 yen ** You can also view the former Kameoka family residence.



[Contact] Hobara History and Culture Museum ☎ 575-1615

Groundhog Day



Do you know what a groundhog is?

A groundhog, otherwise known as a woodchuck, is a species of rodent found throughout much of North America. They have brown fur and grow to be around 50 cm. in length and weigh around 4 kg. They are especially known for their buck teeth, similar to a beaver. I think they are pretty cute!

So what is *Groundhog Day*?

It is a very unique tradition observed in both the US and Canada every February 2nd. In the morning, everyone watches a groundhog come out of its burrow. It is said that if the groundhog sees its shadow, winter will continue for 6 more weeks, however, if it doesn't see its shadow, spring will arrive early. This specific tradition was begun in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania in 1887 where the most famous Groundhog Day star, Phil, does his annual duty.

You must be thinking the forecast is accurate if the tradition has continued for over a century, right? Actually, Phil's prediction has only been right 39% of the time! That's less accurate than a coin flip. Nevertheless, it's still fun to start the day with the weather report from a cute animal!