

# PLAZA NEWSLETTER (September 2025)

In August, you will often hear the words "Obon" and "Obon holiday." Obon is one of Japan's long-standing customs, and many companies and schools close during the Obon period. The Obon period is generally considered to be from August 13th to 16th (this may vary depending on the region), during which people return to their hometowns, gather with family and relatives for meals, and visit graves to offer prayers for their ancestors. Do you have a similar culture to Obon in your country?

Now then, allow us to partially introduce the consultation details found in our plaza. We received 60 consultations in July and have shared below examples of questions and answers. Some content has been edited for privacy concerns.

Q : A foreign acquaintance of mine is resigning due to company circumstances. Their status of residence is "Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services." What should they do about their future employment and housing?

A : In principle, if you have not engaged in the relevant activities for three months without a valid reason, your residence status may be revoked. However, if you are forced to leave your job due to circumstances beyond your control, such as being laid off or your company going bankrupt, and you are actively seeking new employment, you can continue to stay in Japan until your current period of stay expires. If you wish to continue job hunting after your period of stay has expired, you can apply for a six-month "designated activities" status of residence. During this period of re-employment activities, if you wish to work part-time to cover living expenses, you can apply for permission to engage in activities outside your status of residence (up to 28 hours per week). For housing, we referred them to the Independent Living Support Center and the Kumamoto City Housing Support Council for consultation.

Q : I would like to ask for advice regarding my child's Japanese language studies. I have a child who is half Japanese and half foreign. S/he is in elementary school, are there any places outside of school that teach Japanese?

A : The Kumamoto City International Center hosts the "Orgatta Station" for children with foreign roots. They can get advice on Japanese language studies, homework and daily life. Elementary school students from middle grades and junior high school students can participate. Participation is free. We also host "Orgatta Kids" for children of foreign origin aged 5 to 8 (early elementary school students). Activities incorporate Japanese language skills through picture book reading, crafts, and play. Please see the website for more details of these programs.



Orgatta Station



Orgatta kids

Q : I have been residing in Japan for about three years with a technical, humanities, or international business visa. Although I already have 80 points for a highly skilled professional visa, I have not switched to it. Can I apply for permanent residency with my current visa status?

A : If you have acquired 80 or more points for a highly skilled professional and have been in the position for more than a year, you can apply for permanent residence even if you have not changed your status to highly skilled professional with the document of proof.

If you have any problems, please contact the Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents.



# Japanese classes



Living in Japan, it can be difficult if you don't understand Japanese.

Why not start studying Japanese to change that situation?

The Kumamoto International Foundation runs Japanese language classes at seven locations in Kumamoto City.

You'll find a class that's convenient and easy to get to from your workplace or home. Registration is required to participate. Please contact us first.

Kumamoto International Foundation  
Japanese Language Learning Support Plaza  
4-18 Hanabata-cho, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto-shi  
Phone: 096-359-2121  
e-mail: [nihongo@kumamoto-if.or.jp](mailto:nihongo@kumamoto-if.or.jp)



Kurashi no  
nihongo club

1) International Center  
Kumamoto City  
International Center 2F

Tue 10:00-12:00  
Wed 10:00-12:00  
14:00-16:00  
18:30-20:00  
Sun 10:00-12:00  
14:00-16:00

¥100 per lesson

2) Kengun

YOTTEKANNE  
Kengun shopping street  
Tuesday 10:00-11:30

Free

4) Musashigaoka

Seibu Community  
Center, Kikuyo-machi  
Tuesday 10:00-11:30

¥100 per lesson

3) Nishi-ku

Tasaki Ichiba  
Tasaki Market Center 4F  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday  
13:30-15:00

Free

5) Higashi-ku

Tobu Community Center  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday  
10:00-11:30

Free

6) Minami-ku

Nanbu Community Center  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 13:30-15:00

Free

7) Kita-ku

KDS(Kumamoto Driving School)  
Thursday 10:00-11:30

Free

# 『Tuberculosis and Respiratory Infection Prevention Week』



Tuberculosis may seem like an old disease, but it still infects many people today. It is still a serious infectious disease in Japan, with 28 new cases and five deaths per day. Since September 24th to 30th is Tuberculosis and Respiratory Infection Prevention Week, in the September issue we looked at tuberculosis.

## 1. What kind of disease is tuberculosis?

Tuberculosis is a disease caused primarily by the lungs. At first, symptoms may resemble a cold, but if you have phlegm-laden coughs, low-grade fever or general fatigue that lasts for more than 2 weeks, you should seek medical attention.

Tuberculosis knowledge  
(multilingual)



## 2. Is tuberculosis contagious?

When a patient with pulmonary tuberculosis coughs or sneezes, the bacteria are dispersed into the air, and people nearby can inhale them and become infected. In most cases, healthy people do not develop the disease due to the action of their immune system. However, it weakens due to aging or illness, the suppressed tuberculosis bacteria may become active again and cause the disease. People with latent tuberculosis infection who have not yet developed the disease can prevent the disease from developing by taking medicine for 3 to 6 months.

## 3. Can tuberculosis be prevented?

Living a healthy lifestyle (moderate exercise, enough sleep, a balanced diet, not smoking, etc.) strengthens the immune system and helps prevent tuberculosis. In addition, early detection will prevent the disease from becoming severe and the spread to those around you. Even if you have no symptoms, you should undergo regular health checkups.

## 4. Can tuberculosis be cured?

If you are diagnosed with tuberculosis, you can be cured by taking multiple medicines regularly every day for 6 to 9 months, but you should not stop taking them halfway through. There is a risk that the bacteria will develop resistance and turn into drug-resistant pulmonary tuberculosis. During hospitalization and after discharge, medical institutions and public health centers work together to monitor medication to ensure treatment is carried out properly. If you report tuberculosis, you may be able to receive public coverage for the cost of treatment. If you have any concerns about tuberculosis, including treatment, please contact your local health center or the tuberculosis hotline for foreign residents (available in multiple languages).

●Kumamoto city Public Health Center, Health Crisis Administration Section

Phone: 096-371-3311 (8:30-17:15 weekdays)

E-mail: [kenkoukikikanri@city.kumamoto.lg.jp](mailto:kenkoukikikanri@city.kumamoto.lg.jp)

●Tuberculosis telephone counselling for foreigners (multilingual service)

Phone: 03-3292-1219 (10:00-12:00, 13:00-15:00 every Tuesday)

► For the latest information on infectious diseases :

General Infectious Diseases  
(MHLW)



Tuberculosis  
(Research institute of tuberculosis,  
the surveillance center)





## Information on Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents

The Plaza offers professional consultations including legal affairs, residence status issues, housing and life affairs support in multiple languages. Consultants who speak English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Spanish, Nepali and Taiwanese are available at the Plaza as the schedule below.

### September Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
01	02 •Chinese Consultation	03 •Immigrational Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation	04 •Korean Consultation	05 •Spanish Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	06	07 •Vietnamese Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese
08 closed	09 •Chinese Consultation	10 •Mental Health Counseling •Tagalog Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation •Job Consultation	11 •Korean Consultation	12 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	13	14 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Educational Consultation •Immigrational Consultation
15 Respect for the Aged Day	16 •Chinese Consultation	17 •Housing Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation •Life Consultation in Taiwanese	18 •Korean Consultation	19 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	20 •Free Legal Consultation •Life Consultation in Chinese	21 •Immigrational Consultation •Vietnamese Consultation •Nepal Consultation
22 closed	23 Autumn equinox Day	24 •Life Consultation in Chinese •German Consultation •One-stop Consultation Service for International Students	25 •Korean Consultation	26 •Life Consultation in Chinese •English Consultation	27	28 •Life Consultation in Chinese •Educational Consultation •Life Consultation in Taiwanese
29	30 •Chinese Consultation	01	02	03	04	05
06	07	note: Consultations 1:00p.m~5:00p.m (apart from the ones below) •Life Consultation in Chinese 1:00pm ~ 6:00pm •Immigrational Consultation 1:00pm~4:00pm 3:30pm~5:30pm •Free Legal Consultation 2:00pm~4:00pm (Reservation required) •One-stop Consultation Service for International Students 1:00pm~4:00pm •Mental Health Counseling •Educational Consultation 10:00am~3:00pm				

※ Consultation service could be cancelled due to consultant's personal reasons. Please e-mail or call us beforehand to check if the consultant is available.

### Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents' Facebook

We regularly update information useful to you.

Follow us and be one of the first one to be informed!



Plaza's FB

We are offering variety of information useful to your life. Please check us!



Our website



Our Life affairs guidance

### Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents

**Location:** 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Kumamoto City International Center

**Address:** 4-18 Hanabata-Cho, Chuo-Ku, Kumamoto City, 860-0806

**Tel:** 096-359-4995

**E-mail:** [soudan@kumamoto-if.or.jp](mailto:soudan@kumamoto-if.or.jp)

**Opening hours:** Between 10 am and 6 pm

**Closed** on second and fourth Mondays and between December 29 and January 3

★ If second or fourth Monday is a national holiday, the plaza will be closed the following day instead.

