

Our invisible enemy, "COVID-19"

April 25, 2020

Greetings to all of our association members. Thank you all for your continued support.

Throughout life, there are many opponents that will appear before us.

Sickness, accidents, slander from others and so on, are unpredictable and may occur at any time. Nothing is scarier than an enemy we cannot see approaching. I think the new coronavirus, COVID-19, with a long incubation period, is one of these examples.

Although the national government has declared a nationwide state of emergency and has put many preventative measures in place, the number of those infected with the virus is continuing to rise daily. Our association believes we must take this seriously. All of us - our members, staff, volunteers and foreign residents of the city - must work together and comply with the measures set in place by our town and wider area government.

The International Association has postponed the International Festival to next year, and our classes are cancelled until further notice, but our staff are essential employees of the city. As such, they will be continuing to work in our office as usual, so please contact us via phone or email if you have any questions or concerns during these difficult times.

At the International Association, we aim to create a society in our city in which our foreign residents (approx. 930 people from 40 countries) can live side-by-side with our Japanese residents, in a safe and worry-free environment, with your help. Within our foreign residents, there are those who will be particularly troubled now due to differences in language and culture. However, COVID-19 does not see race or culture. It affects us all the same way. As the incubation period for COVID-19 is particularly long, we have no way of knowing where or when it will appear in our community, and so we must all think and act as if we will catch it next. Be kind to those around you, don't act with suspicion or prejudice. Take in the correct, official information, and act accordingly to keep yourselves and our communities safe.

I believe that we must all act intelligently as one community to overcome this virus. We cannot predict what will happen next. "Don't spread the virus, and protect yourself." We must live with these words in our minds as we work together to keep our community safe and healthy, with guidance from experts and our country.

Aizuwakamatsu International Association President
Suzuki Kensuke



Japanese Classes Update

Due to the continuing spread of COVID-19, we have made some changes to our upcoming Japanese classes. If you have any questions about these changes, or coronavirus in Japan, please contact us via phone or email. We are here to support you during this difficult time.

Nihongo Salon
Tuesdays, 1:30~3:00pm

+

Nihongo Hiroba
2nd and 4th Sunday, 10:00am~

CANCELLED
until further notice.



Spring Japanese Classes
Thursday evenings
Friday mornings
CANCELLED

For advice on how to study during this time, or if you have questions about your studies, please contact us via phone or email (in English and Chinese is OK!).

International Festival Update

After a lot of discussion, we have decided to cancel this year's International Festival. We are sad to have to do this as it is our biggest event, but we believe it is in the best interests of our members, community, and staff. The Festival will be held in 2021 instead (date to be decided). Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding—we hope to see you there!

Members General Meeting

We are currently discussing whether or not to go ahead with our annual General Meeting. When we have reached a decision about holding it as planned or postponing it, we will update you all. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

<http://awia.jp>
<http://facebook.com/awiajp>



Visit our homepage or Facebook for the latest updates in multiple languages!

A message from the author!

Hi there everyone! My name is Devon Gray. Originally from NZ, I've been in Wakamatsu for a few years now, and I've been a part of several AWIA events and projects during that time. I'll be helping them out with newsletter and such while they look for a new native English-speaking CIR to replace Tammy. See you around!

Public Facility Closure

Due to the continuing spread of COVID-19, the following public facilities will be closed until May 6th 2020 (subject to change).

- Aizu Public Library
- Aizu Keikodo (Adult Education Centre)
- Kodomo no Mori
- All Community Centres
- Aizu Fugado Performance Hall
- Aizuwakamatsu Culture Centre
- Aizu Noh Theatre (Nogakudo)
- Shonen no Ie (Youth Learning Centre)
- Fure-ai Taiikukan (Gymnasium) and facilities (i.e, baseball field, archery area, pool)
- Tsurugajo Castle Park and all facilities (i.e, athletics and sports facilities, castle tower)
- Aizuwakamatsu Centre for Historical Records (Manabeko)

For a full list of facilities and contact numbers for each, please visit the Aizuwakamatsu city website (<http://https://www.city.aizuwakamatsu.fukushima.jp/docs/2020041800016/>)

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Consultations and Advice

For up-to-date information or advice regarding coronavirus in Fukushima prefecture, please contact the following centres;

- Fukushima Pref. general advice (call centre)

Weekdays 08:30~21:00 Phn: 0120-567-177
Weekends 08:30~17:15 Fax: 024-521-7926

* For those with hearing impairment, please use the above fax line.

- Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare desk

Everyday 09:00~21:00 Phn: 0120-565-653

If you think you may have COVID-19, please contact the Returnees/Virus Exposure Centre BEFORE visiting a medical centre.

24hr Phn: 0120-5670747



Point-and-Speak Guide Available!

For a great point-and-speak guide of COVID-19 related vocabulary, go to this website. It's a free download that you can print, with phrases in 17 languages.

<http://yubisashi.com/covid19>

(published by Joho Center Publishing)



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) INFORMATION

As the situation across Japan, in our prefecture and our city is constantly changing, we would like to provide you with information that may be useful in the coming weeks. Preventing rapid spread of the virus and "cluster" infections is now critically important as the situation worsens worldwide. Japan is showing a rapid increase in patients, especially in larger cities like Tokyo, but also within Fukushima prefecture. Please read the following information carefully, and contact us if you have any questions.



AVOID THE 3 C's!

- **CLOSED SPACES** with poor ventilation
- **CROWDED PLACES** with many people nearby.
- **CLOSE-CONTACT** settings, such as close-range conversations.

Precautions

- Avoiding the 3 C's (see above)
- **Washing you hands** thoroughly and regularly with soap and water, or an alcohol based handwash.
- Practice proper **coughing etiquette** (coughing/sneezing into a handkerchief, tissue, or elbow, facing away from others, disposing of used tissues properly etc.)
- **Avoid touching your face.**
- If you suspect you are developing symptoms of COVID-19, **stay home.** Do not go out unless absolutely necessary, and if you must go out, wear a mask and follow the above precautions.

State of Emergency Declaration

The State of Emergency has now been expanded to cover the entire country, and most public spaces, schools, and events are now closed or cancelled until May 6th at the earliest. You can get the latest prefectural information in English from Fukushima's Governor at this site:

<https://www.pref.fukushima.lg.jp/sec/21045c/governor-message-english.html>

Want to keep up your studies?

Unfortunately our Japanese classes have been cancelled for the foreseeable future, but in this day and age, internet and phone apps are becoming excellent tools! You can see a collection of study materials at

<http://nihongo-e-na.com/eng>



If you suspect you have COVID-19 **DO NOT** go straight to a hospital or clinic **DO** contact the Returnees/Virus Exposure Centre if the following apply;

- You have a **fever of 37.5 or higher for four or more days** (two days if you are pregnant, elderly, or have an existing medical condition).
- You experience **heavy fatigue and/or trouble breathing.**

Returnees/Virus Exposure Centre Phn:
24hr Phn: 0120-5670747

If you require **on-the-phone interpreting** (11 different languages) please contact the **Fukushima Pref. International Exchange Association** at 024-524-1316 (Tuesday~Saturday, 09:00~17:15)

<http://awia.jp>
<http://facebook.com/awiajp>

Visit our *homepage* or *Facebook* for the latest updates in multiple languages!