

## 6. Useful information for daily life in Kikuyo Town

- (1) When you are sick or injured
- (2) In the Event of an Incident, Accident or Fire
- (3) Prepare for Natural Disasters, and When a Major Disaster Occurs
- (4) Finding a home and using electricity and gas
- (5) Acquiring My Number Card
- (6) Issuance of Certificates at Convenience Stores
- (7) Status of Residence and Period of Stay
- (8) Employment and Job Search
- (9) How to Use Public Transportation
- (10) Driver's License and Traffic Rules



## 6– (1) When you are sick or injured

If you are experiencing symptoms of illness or injury, you should first visit a nearby clinic (family doctor).

After diagnosis, the doctor at the clinic will refer you to a hospital if specialized treatment or hospitalization is required.

Be sure to check the location of the medical facility and its emergency medical services.

### 〈What you need when you go to the doctor〉

- Health Insurance Card
- “Hikarikko Card”<sup>\*1</sup> (Child Medical Expense Beneficiary Certificate)(For children up to the age of 18)

※ 1 For a detailed explanation of the “Hikarikko Card,” see “3-(8) Child Medical Expense Subsidies” on page 21.

### 〈Medical Institutions in the Town〉

As listed on the next page.

### 〈In case of sudden illness during holidays〉

In case of sudden illness during holidays, you can see a doctor on duty at home during holidays.

You can check the on-call doctor on holidays at the public relations and Kikuchi-gun Medical Association websites.



Introduction of  
holiday duty  
doctors  
Kikuchi-gun Medical  
Association HP

### 〈In case of emergency〉

In case of an emergency, please call an ambulance by dialing “119”<sup>\*2</sup>.

※ 2 For details on how to call an ambulance, see “6– (1) In the Event of an Incident, Accident, or Fire” on page 54.



### 〈Night-time telephone consultation service for sudden illness of children, etc.〉

Telephone No. [#8000]<sup>\*3</sup>

※ 3 For dial lines, IP phones, and fiber optic phones, call, **☎096-364-9999**

#### 【Consultation Hours】

Weekdays : 7:00pm to 8:00am the next morning

Saturday : 3:00pm to 8:00am the next morning

Sunday : From 8:00am to 8:00am the next morning

【Advisor】 Nurse

#### 【Advisable matters】

- Advice on how to deal with sudden illness of children at night and first aid measures
- Information on available medical institutions, etc.




〈List of medical facilities in the town〉

Name of Medical Facilities	Location	Telephone No.
Kumamoto Central Hospital	2921 Haramizu	096-340-5001
Kumamoto Rehabilitation Hospital	760 Magate	096-232-3111
Higashi Kumamoto Daini Hospital	1923-1 Karakawa	096-232-3939
Kikuyodai Hospital	2984 Kubota	096-232-1191
Kikuyo Hospital	5587 Haramizu	096-232-3171
Jinseikai Clinic OZU	2973 Haramizu	096-232-9595
Souma Eye Clinic	2906-5 Haramizu	096-340-5520
Chiga OB/GYN Clinic	2951-1 Haramizu	096-232-9131
Yano Clinic	1611 Haramizu	096-232-5266
Honda Naika Ichoka Clinic	427 Babagusu	096-232-2021
Ikeda Urology and Internal Medicine Clinic	1166-1 Haramizu	096-233-1000
Kikuyo Akita Clinic	1156-13 Haramizu	096-232-8333
Kikuyochubu Clinic	868-5 Tsukure	096-232-1566
Tsukure Clinic	2528-5 Tsukure	096-285-3335
Hotta Eye Clinic	2802-1 Kubota	096-292-3455
YOSHIMOTO Pediatric Clinic	1156-2 Haramizu	096-233-2520
KAWANO CLINIC	3011-4 Tsukure	096-233-1717
Kikuyo Ladies' Clinic	2-8-23 Shinyama	096-213-5656
Shimomura Orthopedic Clinic	2232-1 Tsukure	096-232-5836
Takenaga Children's Clinic	2-12-15 Suginamidai	096-232-1110
Nagata EYE CLINIC	2420-5 Tsukure	096-285-1117
SAKAGUCHI GASTROENTEROLOGY CLINIC	2417-2 Tsukure	096-292-3800
Atopia Clinic	2422-4 Tsukure	096-349-2566
HARU INTERNAL MEDICINE DERMATOLOGY CLINIC	2377-1 Tsukure	096-232-8383
Otolaryngology MATSUOKA	2422-15 Tsukure	096-232-5011
Ihara Plastic Surgery Clinic	7-14-7 Hikarinomori	096-340-2560
KATO ORTHOPEDICS CLINIC	3-17-4 Hikarinomori	096-349-2255
Sakura Eye and Internal Medicine Clinic	7-33-1 Hikarinomori	096-340-2325
Clinic Hikarinomori	3-1-1 Hikarinomori	096-285-3466
Tani Otolaryngology Allergology Clinic	6-1-3 Hikarinomori	096-233-3387
Tabuchi naika junkankika	3-17-3 Hikarinomori	096-233-3588
Nakafusa Psychosomatic Medicine, Hikari no Mori	7-25-5 Hikarinomori	096-288-6802
HIKARINOMORI CRANIAL NEVER NEUROSURGERY	6-1-6 Hikarinomori	096-232-7711
Hikarinomori Mental Clinic	7-41-4 Hikarinomori	096-232-8102
Musashi Shimomura Medical Clinic	2-10-7 Musashigaoka	096-339-7561

**Contact information for the section in charge**

Health and Insurance Division, Kikuyo Town Office

**☎096-232-4912**    [kenkohoken@town.kikuyo.lg.jp](mailto:kenkohoken@town.kikuyo.lg.jp)

## 6– (2) In the Event of an Incident, Accident or Fire

If you or your family or friends are involved in an emergency such as an incident, accident, or fire, you must call the police, fire department, or emergency services. When the call is connected, do not panic; stay calm, and provide information about the situation at the scene and injuries sustained.

### (1) In the event of an incident or accident 【Call the police : Call “110”】

If a crime or other incident or traffic accident occurs, call the police. Call “110” and stay calm when the call is connected and communicate as follows.



〈Example of reporting an incident or accident by calling “110”〉

(What to communicate)	(Example of how to communicate)
① Your name and your nationality. ※ Speak slowly and clearly in Japanese or communicate via a three-way call with an interpreter.	→ “I’m Nguyen. I am from Vietnam.”
② Whether it was an incident or a traffic accident.	→ “A car and a bicycle collided near ○ ○.”
③ Whether anyone is injured.	→ A friend hit his head and is bleeding.
④ Answer the questions asked by the police.	→ 【Question】 When did the accident occur? “It happened around (time)”
⑤ Your contact information.	→ “My phone number is 090-****-**** ”

### (2) In the event of fire 【Call the fire department : Call “119”】

If there is a fire in your home, call the fire department. Call “119” and stay calm when the call is connected and communicate as follows. Even if you find a fire outdoors, call the fire department.



〈Example of reporting a fire by calling “119”〉

(What to communicate)	(Example of how to communicate)
① Your name and your nationality. ※ Speak slowly and clearly in Japanese or communicate via a three-way call with an interpreter.	→ “I’m Chin. I’m from Taiwan.”
② Whether it is a fire or an emergency.	→ “There is a fire.”
③ Explain the situation at the scene.	→ “The kitchen is on fire, and the fire is spreading to the ceiling.”
④ The address (location) where the incident occurred. ※ If you do not know the address, tell the nearby landmark.	→ “The address is Chin House, ○○, Kubota, Kikuyo-machi.” “It happened around (time)”
⑤ Your name and contact information.	→ “My name is Chin ○○. My phone number is 090-****-**** ”

### (3) In the event of sudden illness or injury

#### **[Call the fire department (emergency services) : Dial “119”]**

If you or your family or friends suffer a sudden illness or severe injury requiring emergency care <sup>※1</sup>, call the fire department and call an ambulance. Call “119” and communicate as follows when the call is connected.

※1 Ambulance is used to transport people with symptoms of sudden illness or injury to hospitals on an emergency basis. If the symptoms of illness or injury are mild and do not require emergency care, do not use an ambulance and go to the hospital or clinic alone. Ambulances cannot be used as taxis.



#### 〈Example of reporting a sudden illness or injury by calling “119”〉

(What to communicate)	(Example of how to communicate)
① Your name and your nationality. ※ Speak slowly and clearly in Japanese or communicate via a three-way call with an interpreter.	→ “My name is Wang. I am from China.”
② Whether it is a fire or an emergency.	→ “It’s an emergency.”
③ Who is involved in the incident and how.	→ “My 70-year-old father suddenly collapsed and is unconscious.”
④ The address (location) where the incident occurred. ※ If you do not know the address, tell the nearby landmark.	→ “The address is Wang House, ○○ Kubota, Kikuyo-machi.” “It happened around (time)”
⑤ Your name and contact information.	→ “My name is Wang ○○. My phone number is 090-****-**** ”

### (4) Points to note when reporting to the police or fire department (emergency services)

① If you use an ambulance, transportation to a medical facility is free, but the patient is responsible for the cost of treatment at the medical facility and transportation back home. Keep your health insurance card and necessary money handy.

② If you cause a traffic accident and injure the other person, call 119 and call an ambulance. Then call “110” and call the police.

Move the injured person to a safe place and give first aid until the ambulance arrives.

③ In the event of a traffic accident, if you have voluntary insurance, contact your insurance company.

④ Contact the Kumamoto Traffic Accident Consultation Center (**☎096-333-2295**) for consultation on a traffic accident. Consultation is available in Japanese on weekdays regarding claims for damages and settlements.



Traffic Accident Consultation Center Website

**[Police]** Ozu Police Station **☎096-294-0110** Muro, Ozumachi, Kikuchi-gun

#### **[Fire Department]**

Kikuchi Interjurisdictional Fire Department Headquarters, Minami Fire Station  
**☎096-232-9331** 7-1 Haramizu, Kikuyo-machi, Kikuchi-gun

#### Contact information for the section in charge





Crisis Management and Disaster Prevention Division, Kikuyo Town Office  
**☎096-232-2110** [✉ bousai@town.kikuyo.lg.jp](mailto:bousai@town.kikuyo.lg.jp)

## 6– (3) Prepare for Natural Disasters, and When a Major Disaster Occurs

Natural disasters such as heavy rains, typhoons, overflowing rivers and earthquakes may occur in Kikuyo town during the rainy season. Prepare for disasters by regularly checking the location of the designated evacuation centers on the disaster prevention map and storing water and food.

### (1) Confirmation of Disaster Prevention Information

The following sites and email services provide weather and evacuation information necessary for disaster preparedness.

 <p><b>Japan Meteorological Agency</b> (available in 14 languages)</p> <p>In addition to weather information such as heavy rain and typhoons, warnings and advisories, information on earthquakes, volcanoes and landslides are posted.</p>	 <p><b>KikuyoAnshin (Safety) Email</b></p> <p>Information is sent by email on the opening of evacuation shelters and evacuation information in and on crime prevention in Kikuyo town. Requires registration of email.</p>
 <p><b>Disaster Prevention Information Kumamoto</b> (available in 11 languages)</p> <p>Disaster prevention and evacuation information, the opening of evacuation shelters and road regulations are posted for Kumamoto Prefecture.</p>	 <p><b>Kikuyo Disaster Prevention Map</b></p> <p>The map shows the locations of designated evacuation sites, evacuation centers, inundation areas and landslide warning zones.</p>

### (2) Response to Typhoons and Torrential Rains

Typhoons often pass near Japan from August to October, and strong typhoons may approach and make landfall in the Kyushu region, including Kumamoto Prefecture.

Torrential downpours during the rainy season can last hours with heavy rain and lightning. A large volume of rain may fall over a small area in a short period, such as during the hot summer months.

When typhoons or torrential rains are expected, early preparation is required to minimize damage to the possible extent.

### **【When typhoons and torrential rains are expected】**

- Check weather information frequently on TV and the Internet.
- Ensure that clotheslines and flowerpots, etc., are not blown away by the wind.
- Close the shutters and windows and lock them securely.
- Collect information on TV or the Internet, and if your home is unsafe or you feel you are in danger, evacuate to a designated evacuation site.



### **【During typhoons or torrential rains】**

- Please evacuate to a safe place before the “Warning” is issued (before it becomes rainy or windy). There is no need to evacuate if your home is safe.
- Do not go out and stay away from dangerous places as there is a possibility of disasters, such as flooding and landslides.
- There is an increased risk of a major disaster when a “special warning” is issued. Take immediate life-saving action, such as moving to a safe place in your home.

## **(3) Response to earthquakes**

Earthquakes frequently strike Japan, sometimes more potent than 5 on the Japanese seismic scale. Prepare for a major earthquake by storing supplies, securing furniture, and thinking about how you will act on a daily basis.

### **【Daily Preparations】**

- Stock up on water and food, and pack underwear, clothing, glasses, storage solution for contact lenses and flashlights, etc., in a backpack or bag.
- Ensure that valuables such as bankbooks, health insurance cards, passports, etc., can be carried with you.
- Confirm the location of the designated evacuation centers and decide how to contact family and friends and where to meet.

### **【In the event of an earthquake】**

- When an earthquake of intensity 5 or higher is expected to occur, the Japan Meteorological Agency will issue an “Earthquake Early Warning” that will be displayed on TVs and smartphones.
- If you are using a fire such as cooking, turn it off quickly and do not move until the major tremors subside. Protect yourself by hiding under a table; if there is nowhere to hide, protect your head with cushions or pillows.
- When the tremors stop, turn off all gas, oil heaters and other hazards that could cause a fire.
- Open the room doors or front door to create an escape route. Walking indoors is also dangerous if window glass, dishes, etc., are broken. Therefore, be sure to wear shoes.
- Remain calm, as aftershocks may occur once the major tremors have subsided.
- When evacuating, turn off the main gas valve and switch off the electric breaker before leaving the house. When leaving a condominium or building, evacuate using the stairs instead of the elevator.



#### (4) Other useful apps for disaster prevention and disaster management

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##### Yahoo! Disaster Preparedness Bulletin App

Promptly notifies various disaster prevention information by push notifications to support early decision-making and evacuation actions. Receive emergency information from Kikuyo Town.



##### NHK Disaster Preparedness App

Disaster preparedness information such as weather warnings and seismic intensity bulletins can be received by push notifications, and various news from Japan and news in Kumamoto Prefecture can be viewed.




##### Kikuyo Town Official App

This app is linked to the website of Kikuyo Town. View the latest information the town sends and get notifications of emergency information, such as disaster prevention information.



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#### Contact information for the section in charge

Crisis Management and Disaster Prevention Division, Kikuyo Town Office  
**☎096-232-2110**  [bousai@town.kikuyo.lg.jp](mailto:bousai@town.kikuyo.lg.jp)



## 6 – (4) Finding a home and using electricity and gas

### (1) Finding a home

In addition to Municipal housing, which is built for low-income residents in need of housing, there are other ways to find housing in Kikuyo Town, such as renting private apartments or buying a house.

#### 〈Municipal Housing〉

- For more information on Municipal housing, please refer to “4- (7) Municipal Housing” on page 35.

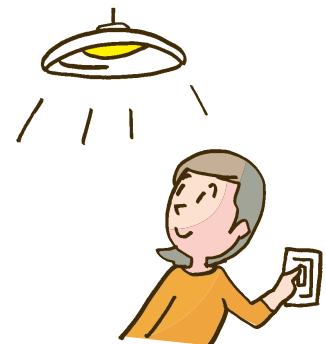
#### 〈Private rental housing〉

- Information about apartments and condominiums for rent in the town can be found on websites.
- In addition, real estate agents will be able to show properties of interest to residents.
- Before signing a contract, it is advisable to check the condition of the building and the rooms.
- When renting a house, in addition to the rent, a commission to the real estate agency is required, and it is necessary to prepare money equivalent to 3-4 months’ rent at the time of signing the contract.
- When signing a lease, a guarantor may be required or it may be necessary to join a guarantee company.

### (2) Usage of electricity and gas

Once a room has been selected, procedures for using electricity and gas are required. If you are moving into a rental apartment, contact the real estate agency where you signed the lease for the procedures for using electricity and gas.

(For details on water usage, refer to “4- (4) Start and end of Water Usage” on page 27.)



#### Contact information for the section in charge

(Municipal Housing) Construction Division, Kikuyo Town Office

**☎096-232-2115** ✉ [kensetsu@town.kikuyo.lg.jp](mailto:kensetsu@town.kikuyo.lg.jp)

(Private Housing) General Policy Planning Division, Kikuyo Town Office

**☎096-232-2112** ✉ [sogoseisaku@town.kikuyo.lg.jp](mailto:sogoseisaku@town.kikuyo.lg.jp)

## 6 – (5) Acquiring My Number Card

People registered as residents in Japan will have a "My Number" [Individual Number]. The proof for My Number is your My Number card with a photo of your face.

An application must be submitted for issuance to obtain a My Number Card.

The expiration date of the My Number Card is the same as the expiration date of the Residence Card, so renewal procedures are required before the Residence Card expires. Note that a re-issuance fee of 1,000 yen is required for procedures after the expiration date.

<p>How to apply</p>	<p>You can apply for the issuance of My Number Card by either method ① or ② below.</p> <p>① Read the QR code on the application form and apply from a smartphone          ※ The application form with the QR code will be sent home in a white envelope by the government.          ※ If the form does not arrive or is lost, it can be reissued at the information desk of the Kikuyo Town Office (Municipal Division).</p> <p>② Apply at the town hall</p>
<p>How to receive</p>	<p>After submitting the application, a My Number Card will be issued in approximately 1.5 months.          When the card is ready to be issued, the town office (Municipal Division) will notify the applicant.          When notified, visit the town office (Municipal Division) to collect the My Number Card.</p> <p>〈Documents required to collect the card〉</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ My Number Card Issuance Notice/Electronic Certificate Issuance Notice</li> <li>■ Identification Documents (residence card, passport, driver's license, etc.)</li> </ul>

### 〈Details of My Number Card〉

Please visit the My Number Card website using the QR code.



My Number Card Website  
(available in 16 languages)



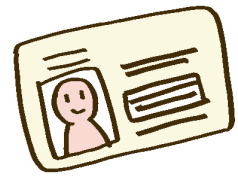
### Contact information for the section in charge

Municipal Division, Kikuyo Town Office

☎096-232-4914    ✉chomin@town.kikuyo.lg.jp

## 6 – (6) Issuance of Certificates at Convenience Stores

Those with a "My Number" [Individual Number] card can set their PIN for the "Digital Certificate for User Verification" to obtain certificates from a dedicated terminal at a convenience store.



### 〈Issuance of Certificates〉

Certificates issued	Issuance time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Certified copy of residence certificate/extract Fee: 300 yen</li> <li>■ Certificate of seal registration<sup>*1</sup> Fee: 300 yen                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>※ 1 Only for those who registered their seal</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Certified copy of Family register/extract<sup>*2</sup> Fee: 450 yen                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>※ 2 Only for Japanese nationals</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Income certificate Fee: 300 yen</li> <li>■ Certificate of taxation Fee: 300 yen</li> <li>■ Certificate of income tax Fee: 300 yen</li> <li>■ Vaccine passport<sup>*3</sup> Fee: 120 yen                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>※ 3 Can be issued to only those who were vaccinated in Japan.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>6 : 30-23 : 00</b></p> <p>※ 2 For the issuance of a certified copy/extract of the family register Between 8 : 30-17 : 15 Not issued on Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays</p>

### 〈Important Notes〉

- The card will be locked if applicants make a mistake in the PIN of their "My Number" Card 3 times during the issuance procedure. The card can be unlocked at the town office (Municipal Division).
- Certificates cannot be submitted at convenience stores for persons who are victims of domestic violence or stalking and are receiving support measures.



### Contact information for the section in charge

Municipal Division, Kikuyo Town Office  
**☎096-232-4914** ✉ [chomin@town.kikuyo.lg.jp](mailto:chomin@town.kikuyo.lg.jp)  
 Tax Division, Kikuyo Town Office  
**☎096-232-4911** ✉ [zeimu@town.kikuyo.lg.jp](mailto:zeimu@town.kikuyo.lg.jp)

## 6 – (7) Status of Residence and Period of Stay

Residence status and period of stay are indicated on their passport for foreign nationals entering Japan.

If you want to engage in activities other than those permitted under your status of residence or stay beyond your period of stay, you must complete the required procedures in advance. Violations may result in punishment or deportation.

### (1) Status of residence

Status granted when entering Japan according to the purpose of entry or residence. Includes 29 types of activities that can be performed within the scope of this qualification.

### (2) Period of stay

The period of stay is specified for each status of residence. You can stay in Japan within the period of your stay. You cannot stay in Japan beyond your period of stay.

#### 〈Application for the status of residence and period of stay〉

Application for permission to the Immigration Bureau of Japan is required for the following procedures. Please check with the Immigration Bureau for details on the required documents.



Immigration Bureau  
Website  
(Various procedures)

Procedure	Summary
Extension of Period of Stay	If you want to extend your period of stay, apply to and receive permission from the concerned Immigration Bureau before your period of stay expires. A fee is required for the application process.
Change of status of residence	If you want to change your current status of residence, apply to and receive permission from the concerned Immigration Bureau. A fee is required for the application process. (example: An international student who graduates, finds a job and continues to live in Japan, or marries a Japanese national, etc.)
Obtaining the status of residence	When a child is born to a foreign couple in Japan and is not a Japanese citizen, an application must be submitted to the concerned Immigration Bureau within 30 days of birth to obtain the status of residence for the child. ※An application is not necessary if you are leaving Japan within 60 days.
Permission to engage in activity other than those permitted under the Status of Residence	If you want to engage in income-generating activities that are not covered under the current status of residence, you must apply to and receive permission from the concerned Immigration Bureau. (Example: When an international student takes a part-time job, etc.)

### (3) “Special Re-entry Permission” system

Foreign nationals possessing a valid passport and resident card who wish to re-enter Japan within 1 year of their departure to continue their activities in Japan do not, in principle, need to obtain a re-entry permit. Present your resident card without fail when leaving the country.

#### Contact information for the section in charge

General Policy Planning Division, Kikuyo Town Office  
☎096-232-2112 ✉sogoseisaku@town.kikuyo.lg.jp

## 6– (8) Employment and Job Search

### (1) Employment

Discrimination against workers regarding wages, working hours, etc., based on nationality, religion, etc., is prohibited in Japan. Foreign nationals working in Japan have the same legal rights as Japanese nationals working in companies and establishments.

Knowing and understanding the laws and systems related to labor is important.

### (2) Requirements for employment

A foreign national must have a status of residence that allows them to work, and the nature of work must be recognized under that status of residence.



### (3) Job Search

Government agencies such as the Public Employment Security Office (Hello Work) and the Employment Service Center for Foreigners are available to provide consultation and referrals regarding employment.

In addition, a wide range of information on employment in the private sector is available on the Internet

**Hello Work, Kikuchi ☎0968-24-8609**

771-1 Waifu, Kikuchi-shi, Kumamoto 861-1331, Japan

**Fukuoka Employment Service Center for Foreigners ☎092-716-8608**

Elgara 12F, 1-4-2 Tenjin, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka-shi, Fukuoka 810-0001, Japan

### (4) Problems with employment and working conditions

Those who are employed and are experiencing problems, such as unpaid salaries or wages, lack of benefits for overtime work, forced overtime, or being subjected to sexual harassment or power harassment should consult with the Labor Standards Inspection Office, a national agency, along with someone who understands Japanese (volunteers or interpreters).



**Employment Service Center for Foreigners, Kikuchi Labor Standards Inspection Office ☎0968-28-2665**

236-4 Dairinji, Kikuchi-shi, 861-1306

### Contact information for the section in charge

General Policy Planning Division, Kikuyo Town Office

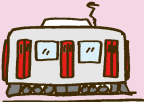










**☎096-232-2112** ✉ [sogoseisaku@town.kikuyo.lg.jp](mailto:sogoseisaku@town.kikuyo.lg.jp)

## 6– (9) How to Use Public Transportation

Kikuyo Town has train stations and bus stops, allowing for transit by railway, bus or taxi. It is also close to Aso Kumamoto Airport, making air travel convenient.

Trains, buses, taxis and flights can be availed upon payment of the prescribed fares.

### 〈How to Use Public Transport Facilities〉

Category	Details
 <p>Train</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The JR Kyushu Hoho Main Line can be accessed from the following 3 stations:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hikarinomori Station</li> <li>Sanrigi Station</li> <li>Haramizu Station</li> </ol> </li> <li>Scan the QR code to check train schedules.</li> <li>Passengers heading to Kumamoto City should board trains in the “Toward Kumamoto” direction.</li> <li>Passengers heading to Ozu and Aso should board trains in the “Toward Higo-Ozu” direction.</li> <li>Fares can be paid by cash or IC card/smartcard.</li> </ul>  <p>JR Kyushu website</p>
 <p>Bus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following companies operate bus routes throughout Kikuyo Town.               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kyushu Sanko  (light blue bus stops)</li> <li>Kumamoto Dentetsu Bus  (yellow bus stops)</li> </ol> </li> <li>Scan the QR codes to check route maps.</li> <li>Fares can be paid by cash or IC card/smartcard.</li> <li>Bus operation information and schedules can be checked via “Bus Kitakumasan” on a smartphone or computer.</li> </ul>  <p>Sanko Bus website →</p>  <p>← Kumamoto Dentetsu Bus website</p>  <p>Bus Kitakumasan website →</p>
 <p>Taxi</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Call the taxi dispatch center (<b>☎096-232-2206</b>) to avail a taxi from any of the following companies:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kikuyo Taxi</li> <li>Oshiro Taxi</li> <li>Kumamoto Cab</li> <li>Kitakumamoto Taxi</li> </ol> </li> <li>Fares can be paid by cash or using the barcode.</li> </ul>
 <p>Flight</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following airlines operate flights from Aso Kumamoto Airport:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ANA</li> <li>JAL</li> <li>SNA</li> <li>FDA</li> </ol> </li> <li>Scan the QR code to check flight schedules.</li> <li>Aso Kumamoto Airport Liner from JR Higo-Ozu Station to the airport is available for passengers for free.</li> </ul>  <p>Aso Kumamoto Airport Website</p>

### 〈Useful apps〉

- Downloading a transit information app onto your smartphone will be helpful for smoother transit with trains, buses and flights. (Examples of apps include NAVITIME Transit, Yahoo! Transit Guide, etc.)




Transfer NAVITIME



Yahoo! Transit Guide

### Contact information for the section in charge



General Policy Planning Division, Kikuyo Town Office  
**☎096-232-2112**  [sogoseisaku@town.kikuyo.lg.jp](mailto:sogoseisaku@town.kikuyo.lg.jp)

## 6– (10) Driver's License and Traffic Rules

### 〈Driver's license〉

Driving a vehicle in Japan requires a Japanese driver's license.

You must either pass a driving test in Japan or take and pass a test to convert a foreign driver's license to a Japanese license.

License types and procedures	Details
International driver's license	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You may drive a vehicle in Japan if you have an international driver's license issued by a country party to the Geneva Conventions.</li> <li>An international driver's license is valid for 1 year from the date of issuance, within which you are permitted to drive in Japan.</li> </ul>
Foreign driver's license	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Driver's licenses issued in Switzerland, Germany, France, Belgium, Monaco, Taiwan and Estonia must have a Japanese translation of the foreign driver's license (issued by the consular office of your home country or the Japan Automobile Federation (JAF)). If you have this license, you are permitted to drive for 1 year from the date of entry into Japan within the validity period.</li> </ul>
Converting to a Japanese driver's license   License conversion website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you can prove that you have stayed in a country that has issued you a valid foreign driver's license for 3 months or longer after the date of issuance, you may apply to convert it to a Japanese driver's license.</li> </ul> <p><b>【Application Center】</b>            Kumamoto Driver's License Center, Driver's License Examination Division  <b>☎096-233-0116</b>            Time: 11:00-12:00, 13:00-16:00            ※ Please book an appointment by phone before applying.</p> <p><b>【Items required for application】</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foreign driver's license</li> <li>Japanese translation of the foreign driver's license (issued by the consular office of your home country or the Japan Automobile Federation (JAF))</li> <li>Certificate of residence (with nationality listed, without "My Number")</li> <li>Passport (confirming whether you have stayed in the country that has issued the license for 3 months or longer after the date of issuance)</li> <li>Two photographs (3.0 cm long x 2.4 cm wide)</li> <li>Application fee</li> </ul>
Renewal of driver's license   License renewal information website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A driver's license is valid for 3 to 5 years (depending on age, driving history, and violations)</li> <li>The license must be renewed during the renewal period (from 1 month before your birthday in the year of expiration until the expiration date).</li> <li>The location for the renewal procedure, acceptance period, fees, etc., will be notified to you by post before the renewal period (If you do not receive a notice within the renewal period, please call the Driver's License Center (☎096-233-0110 and choose [6] for automated guidance)).</li> </ul> <p><b>【Items required for renewal】</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Driver's license</li> <li>License renewal notice</li> <li>Application fee</li> <li>Resident card, special permanent resident certificate, passport, etc., that can confirm your status of residence</li> </ul>

License types and procedures	Details
Other procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For procedures such as modification of details listed in your driver's license, suspension, or cancellation of your driver's license, etc., please get in touch with Ozu Police Station (☎096-294-0110) or Kumamoto Driver's License Center (☎096-233-0110).</li> </ul>

**[Subscribing to automobile insurance]**



- As a preparatory measure, we recommend you sign up for motor vehicle liability insurance (mandatory vehicle liability insurance) and voluntary insurance to cover compensation in the event of an accident.

**<Traffic rules>**


In Japan, pedestrians keep to the right while vehicles such as cars and bicycles keep to the left. Pedestrians have the right of way. While you are in traffic, follow traffic signals, road signs, and any instructions given by the police.



Traffic rules for foreigners Website (Metropolitan Police Department)

Category	Key rules
Pedestrians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pedestrians must walk on the sidewalk on roads with separate sidewalks and roadways.</li> <li>On roads that do not have a sidewalk or wide pedestrian walkway, pedestrians must walk on the right edge of the road.</li> <li>Follow the pedestrian traffic signals at intersections with signals.</li> <li>Raise your hand to indicate your intention to cross at a pedestrian crossing without signals.</li> <li>Check the right and left sides for safety before crossing the road.</li> <li>At night, try to wear reflective materials or bright clothing.</li> </ul>
Bicycles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ride bicycles in a single file along the left edge of the road.</li> <li>You may ride on sidewalks that are marked for bicycles.</li> <li>When riding on the sidewalk, give the right of way to pedestrians and ride your bicycle slowly along the roadside (if you cannot pass a pedestrian, stop and get off your bicycle).</li> <li>Riding a bicycle under the influence of alcohol, two-person riding, and riding side by side are prohibited.</li> <li>Please turn on the light at night.</li> <li>Always obey traffic signals and stop at intersections to check the safety of your surroundings.</li> <li>Please wear a helmet when riding a bicycle.</li> <li>You must sign up for bicycle damage insurance.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>※Subscribing to bicycle damage insurance is mandatory by law in Kumamoto Prefecture.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>




Category	Key rules
Automobiles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People without a valid driver's license are not allowed to drive.</li> <li>• Driving a vehicle under the influence of alcohol is prohibited (and will be severely punished).</li> <li>• All drivers and passengers must wear seat belts.</li> <li>• Always use a child seat when driving with a child under 6.</li> <li>• Please turn on the lights when driving at dusk.</li> <li>• Do not drive while using a cellphone (smartphone).</li> <li>• When driving past pedestrians, maintain a safe distance and drive slowly.</li> </ul>

**【Expressways】**


- Travel on expressways requires tolls to be paid.
- To eliminate the hassle of toll collection at toll gates and to improve traffic congestion, an ETC system that automatically collects tolls has been introduced, with dedicated ETC lanes.
- An in-vehicle device and an ETC card are required to use ETC.

**Contact information for the section in charge**

Crisis Management and Disaster Prevention Division, Kikuyo Town Office  
**☎096-232-2110**    [bousai@town.kikuyo.lg.jp](mailto:bousai@town.kikuyo.lg.jp)

**Guide to living in Kikuyo Town**  
(English version)  
April 2023

Issure : General Policy Planning Division  
2800 Kubota, Kikuyo-machi, Kumamoto Pref.

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