



# MITAKA CITY NEWS

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MITAKA CITY NEWS providing business and event information of Mitaka city is published on 1st of every month.

## June Is Environment Month

Let's Think About Environmental Issues Together

Said to be the cause of natural disasters and abnormal weather conditions, global warming is a serious issue that can even affect the existence of all humankind. We can reduce the burden on the environment significantly by conserving energy and our natural resources. Let's review our everyday lifestyles and habits, and start leading lives that are kind to the Earth.

- Set the thermostat of air conditioners (coolers) at a room temperature of 28°C
- Take your own bags when going shopping
- Avoid letting the water run—or leaving the electricity or gas on—when not in use
- Ride a bicycle or take public transportation such as the bus or train when going out
- Consume locally produced vegetables in season
- Select energy-efficient household appliances
- Sort your garbage carefully and try hard to reduce the amount of garbage

### ◆ Exhibition on Environmental Issues

A panel exhibition will be staged to introduce city programs that address environmental issues.  
**Date and Time:** June 2 (Mon.) through 6 (Fri.), 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (until 3:00 p.m. on June 6)  
**Location:** Municipal Office 1F, Civic Hall

### ◆ Ecological Musical Concert "Town Concert of Bremen"

On a theme of "Eco-friendly Dishes" of the concert, you can enjoy and deepen your understandings towards environmental issues. Events will also be planned such as introduction of vegetables grown in the City, workshop of eco-friendly instruments, and gift of *goya* (bitter melon) seedlings (up to two seedlings per household, 150 household maximum on a first-come, first-served basis), etc.  
**Date and Time:** June 15 (Sun.) 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. (open on 2:00 p.m.)  
**Venue:** Mitaka City Public Hall "Hikari"  
**Capacity:** 650 persons (numbered tickets will be delivered from 1:00 p.m.)  
**Application:** Come to the venue directly

**Inquiries:** Environmental Policy Section, Ext. 2525

## Beware of Photochemical Smog

Occurs Most on Days  
When the Temperature Is Over 20°C  
and There Is Little Wind

Every year in the Tokyo area, there are photochemical smog alerts from around May through September, and there are more smog alerts in the Tama area than in central Tokyo. Smog alerts and warnings are announced through the disaster prevention radio, the City website, safe security e-mails, bulletin boards at public facilities, etc. Please note that as a rule, smog alerts are cancelled after sunset.

### ◆ When There Is a Smog Alert or Warning

- Refrain from stepping outside and from outdoor activities.
- If your eyes and throat start hurting, wash your eyes and gargle immediately.

### Notes:

- The status of current photochemical smog alerts can be confirmed via the website of the Bureau of the Environment of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government.  
(URL: <http://www.ox.kankyo.metro.tokyo.jp/>)
  - Photochemical smog is reportedly caused by air pollution such as automobile exhaust. To prevent air pollution, it is a good idea to limit the use of cars. Why not ride your bicycle or take public transportation, such as the train or bus instead?
- Inquiries:** Environmental Policy Section, Ext. 2523

## Mitaka City Website to Launch Automated Translation Service

Starting Sunday, June 1, the City website will feature an automated translation service. The goal is to improve the flow of information to foreign residents and to supply information quickly about the city administration's latest actions and in an emergency, etc.

### ◆ Languages

English, Korean, Chinese (traditional and simplified characters)

### ◆ How to Use This Service

Click on the language button at the upper right of the main page. (URL: <http://www.city.mitaka.tokyo.jp/>) You will be transferred to the automated translation service's user guide. Follow the guide's instructions, and each page will be automatically translated for you.

### ◆ Precautions

- Since the automated translation service uses a translation program, the results may not necessarily be accurate.  
**Note:** We will gradually improve the quality of the translation.
- This service does not work on certain pages, such as those that run a different program and pages protected by encryption.

**Inquiries:** Secretariat and Public Relations Section, Ext. 2134



Planned screen after automated translation

## About Temporary Welfare Benefits and Temporary Special Benefits for Child Rearing Households

Considering the impact by the increase of consumption tax from April, 2014, the following programs will be initiated as provisional and temporary measures; (1) the Temporary Welfare Benefits available to low-income earners, and (2) the Temporary Special Benefits for Child Rearing Households.

We are progressing with the preparations to start accepting the applications in July. As soon as the details are finalized, it will be announced in the *MITAKA CITY NEWS* and the City website.

### Eligibility:

- (1) Persons not taxed with FY2014 municipal resident's tax (excluding dependent relatives of taxed persons)
- (2) Persons receiving the Child Allowance (including special benefits) for January 2014 (income restrictions apply)

**Note:** Aided persons within the public assistance system are ineligible for either program.

### ◆ Beware of Remittance Fraud and Fraudulent Acquisition of Personal Information Assuming These Programs

At this point, procedures for these benefit programs do not involve a municipal office staff member inquiring about your family members or financial account information, nor will you be asked to make a payment at an ATM (automated teller machine at a bank or convenience store). If you receive a suspicious telephone call at home or at work, please do not hesitate to consult the police.

### Inquiries:

- (1) Temporary Welfare Benefits: Secretariat of Temporary Welfare Benefits, Ext. 3912
- (2) Temporary Special Benefits for Child Rearing Households: Child Care Support Section, Ext. 2751

**Note:** For more details about the programs, please visit the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare website (URL: <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/> [in Japanese]).

## Information

Information about Mitaka International Society for HOspitality

**MISHOP Office**

**Days:** Monday through Saturday (Closed on Sundays and national holidays)

**Hours:** 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Location:** Mitaka City Chuo-Dori Town Plaza 4F, 3-30-12, Shimorenjaku 181-0013

**Tel:** 0422-43-7812 **Fax:** 0422-43-9966

**E-mail:** [mishop@parkcity.ne.jp](mailto:mishop@parkcity.ne.jp)

**URL:** <http://www.mishop.jp/>

**Established:** November 23, 1989

**Population and Number of Households As of May 1, 2014**  
Numbers in brackets are changes from previous month.

**Number of Registered Residents 181,029 persons (+459)**

**Number of Households 89,988 households (+342)**

# National Health Insurance Premiums Revised

Japan's National Health Insurance is a mutual assistance health insurance program in which enrolled members pool their premiums. Originally, the funds consisted of these insurance premiums enrolled members paid and funds from the national and metropolitan governments. However, with medical expenses increasing each year, the finances for the municipal National Health Insurance program continue to face difficult conditions. In FY2014, it is estimated that municipal taxes will have to cover a deficit of over 2.1 billion yen. From the viewpoint of maintaining fairness in taxes, the insurance premiums have been revised with an amendment to city ordinance to avoid filling the deficit with additional municipal taxes, and we will continue to work on keeping the deficit to a minimum.

**Inquiries:** National Health Insurance Section, Ext. 2382

## 1. Revisions in insurance premium ceilings (increase)

Item	FY2013	After the revision (from FY2014)
Basic premium amount (medical portion)	¥510,000	¥510,000 (no change)
Levy to support elderly people at an advanced age	¥140,000	¥160,000
Long-term care premium amount	¥120,000	¥140,000

## 2. Revisions in the per capita amount (increase)

Item	FY2013	After the revision (from FY2014)
Basic premium amount (medical portion)	¥24,400	¥24,400 (no change)
Levy to support elderly people at an advanced age	¥5,500	¥7,900
Long-term care premium amount	¥12,500	¥12,500 (no change)

## 3. Expansion of Insurance Premium Reduction Programs

If the total household income (includes a head of the household who is not a National Health Insurance member) is at or below a designated amount, the per capita amount is reduced. Standards (2) and (3) have been revised, and the eligibility for reduction programs has been expanded.

(1) Households with a total income of ¥330,000 or less: The per capita amount is reduced by 70%

(2) Households with a total income of ¥330,000 + (¥245,000 × number of insured family members) or less: The per capita amount is reduced by 50%

(3) Households with a total income of ¥330,000 + (¥450,000 × number of insured family members) or less: The per capita amount is reduced by 20%

**Note:** Reduction programs are conducted based on the reported income for the previous year.

## Insurance Premium Calculation Method FY2014

Annual premium = the sum of (1) through (3) below (ceiling: ¥810,000)

(1) Basic premium amount (medical portion)

Income ratio amount (calculated basic amount\* × 4.7%) + per capita amount (number of insured family members × ¥24,400) (ceiling: ¥510,000)

(2) Levy to support elderly people at an advanced age

Income ratio amount (calculated basic amount\* × 1.2%) + per capita amount (number of insured family members × ¥7,900) (ceiling: ¥160,000)

(3) Long-term care premium amount (long-term care insurance premium, charged for enrolled members between 40 and 64 years of age)

Income ratio amount (calculated basic amount\* × 1.4%) + per capita amount (number of insured family members × ¥12,500) (ceiling: ¥140,000)

\*Calculated basic amount: The amount after subtracting the basic exemption (¥330,000) from the income for the previous year.

**Note:** FY2014 National Health Insurance premiums notices and invoices are scheduled to be mailed out in mid-July.

## Check Your Health Once a Year with Specific Health Checkups!

No Payment Needed

Are you concerned about health-related matters such as your weight, blood pressure or eating habits? If you undergo a periodic health checkup to check your health and watch for signs of metabolic syndrome and other lifestyle-related illnesses at an early stage, you may be able to prevent illnesses or aggravation of illnesses.

The City conducts specific health checkups for residents forty years of age or older who are enrolled in Mitaka City National Health Insurance. There is no payment necessary. By all means, undergo a checkup within the designated period.

### Flow of Procedures for Specific Health Checkups

#### 1. Checkup Slips Are Mailed Out

Health checkup slips are mailed out to all residents who are enrolled in Mitaka City National Health Insurance as of April 1 and will be turning between 40 and 75 years of age during the current fiscal year. The slips will be mailed out according to your birth month.

Birth Month	Health Checkup Period	Slips Mailed Out
April–July	June 1 through September 30	Late May
August–November	August 1 through November 30	Late July
December–March	October 1 through January 31, 2015	Late September

**Note:** Specific health checkups are conducted at medical institutions designated by the City. A list of the medical institutions will be mailed along with the health checkup slip.

#### 2. Undergoing a Specific Health Checkup

Please be sure to bring the health checkup slip and your health insurance card with you on the day of your checkup. If your health insurance card has changed, you will not be able to undergo the checkup.

#### 3. Explanation of the Results

You can receive an explanation of the results at the medical institution where you received the health checkup within about one month after the checkup. If you are evaluated as having a high risk of lifestyle-related illnesses, you will be given information on specific counseling guidance according to your level of need.

**Note:** For information on specific health checkups for those enrolled in employee health insurance plans (including National Health Insurance Unions) as well as for dependents of such, please ask the insurer who issues your health insurance card.

**Inquiries:** Specific Health Checkup, National Health Insurance Section, Tel: 0422-46-3271

## Mitaka Kiwi Wine Is Being Sold at Liquor Shops in the City

About 10,000 bottles of Mitaka Kiwi Wine—brewed from kiwi fruit produced by the farmers in the city who join the Mitaka Fruit-grower Association—went on sale at 27 liquor shops in the city.

This year's wine is a wonderful product making maximum use of the fragrance of kiwi. The white wine is crisp and dry, and the rosé is slightly sweet. The *Nigori* (cloudy) wine has a savory sweetness, and the sparkling wine is refreshing, and the sweet fragrance of kiwi makes it stand out most. Please try them!

#### ◆ Selling Price (including tax)

White wine and Rosé: ¥1,337 per bottle (720 ml)

*Nigori* wine: ¥1,646 per bottle (720 ml)

Sparkling wine: ¥1,028 per bottle (330 ml)

Sparkling wine (champagne bottle type): ¥1,543 per bottle (360 ml)

**Inquiries:** Joshuya Yamamoto Shop, Tel: 0422-31-7245

City Livelihood and Economy Section, Ext. 2543



## Events of Mitaka City Arts Foundation

Mitaka City Arts Center Theater "Hoshi"

Tel: 0422-47-5122

Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Closed: June 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30

**HP** <http://mitaka-art.jp/ticket> (Japanese only)

= A nursery service is available. (Please apply 2 weeks prior to each performance.)

### Rakugo storytelling of Taihei Hayashiya for Children!

(Variety show with *rakugo*, pantomime, etc.)

July 13 (Sun.)

Tickets now on sale. All seats reserved.

◇ Performance for preschoolers:

Starts at 11:00 a.m. and lasts about one hour

Members: ¥900; non-members: ¥1,000; elementary and junior high school students: ¥500

**Note:** Children from infants on up are permitted. (preschoolers: free)

◇ Performance for elementary school children and older:

Starts at 2:00 p.m. and lasts about two hours

Members: ¥1,800; non-members: ¥2,000; elementary and junior high school students: ¥1,000

**Note:** Preschoolers are not permitted.

**Performances by:** Taihei Hayashiya (*rakugo* storytelling), Fukuro Kouji (pantomime) and others

**Note:** Nursery services are available only for the 2:00 p.m. show.



Taihei Hayashiya

Please come and enjoy *rakugo* storytelling performance by the famed Taihei Hayashiya, and a pantomime show as well. Don't miss this opportunity to bring your children and grandchildren and enjoy the excitement of a Japanese variety show!

## Mitaka City Gallery of Art

Tel: 0422-79-0033

Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (admission until 7:30 p.m.)

Closed: June 2, 9 and 16

**HP** <http://mitaka.jpn.org/gallery/> (Japanese only)

### Marie Laurencin Exhibition: "The Life of a Woman"

Dates: Until June 22 (Sun.)

General: ¥600, those 65 years of age or older and high school and university students: ¥300

**Note:** Free of charge for junior high school students and younger as well as for those with a handbook for the disabled.

Born in Paris, Marie Laurencin (1883–1956) established her own style of art with elegant and pastel colors amid a stormy existence that included surviving two world wars and living in exile. The exhibit will trace the lifetime of a woman who lived in the Paris of the twentieth century, through 69 oil paintings and prints, from self-portraits of her early years to paintings of elegant women figures of her later years.



Montespan et Lavallière : around 1952; oil on canvas; 55 × 46.5 cm

