

About Influenza A (H1N1)

●What is Influenza A (H1N1)?

A strain of influenza previously found in animals which has transformed to become an infectious disease that can easily spread between humans. Because most people are not immune to the disease it is feared that infections will spread widely.

●What are the Symptoms?

Fever, fatigue, vomiting, coughing and other symptoms similar to the regular flu.

●How Can I get Infected?

- ◇ By inhaling the virus that was emitted from another person's coughing and sneezing.
- ◇ The virus will become attached to objects such as doorknobs if an infected person touches it after coughing or sneezing into their hands. You may be infected if you touch your eye, nose or mouth after touching the object that the virus is attached to.

●How to Prevent Infections

- ◇ Refrain from going outside unless necessary (Especially in crowded areas).
- ◇ Wash your hands and gargle after you go outside.
- ◇ If you are coughing or sneezing, wear a mask to prevent spreading germs to others.

●If You Think You May Have Influenza A (H1N1)

Please call the fever advice center (at the Okitama Health Center).

Weekdays & Holidays 9:00~20:00 TEL 22-3002
Before & After Office Hours TEL 22-3000

In order to prevent the influenza from spreading, please do not go directly to medical clinics and hospitals.

◇City Hall Consultation Desk TEL 24-8181

Did You Know ? ?

Sagara Dolls

Sagara Dolls are simple clay dolls that have a two hundred year history. They are considered to be one of the three great dolls of the Tohoku region.



In 1778 Uesugi Yozaan, the clan lord of Yonezawa at the time, ordered his retainer, Sagara Seizaemon Atsutada, to build a pottery making center in the Narushima district. There, he created bowls for everyday use as part of Uesugi's plans for rebuilding the local economy. Sagara Dolls began when Sagara started using his pottery techniques for doll making. Sagara learned the technique for making the Fushimi dolls of Kyoto and was also influenced by the Tsutsumi dolls of Sendai and created his own unique clay dolls. He called them Sagara Dolls after his own name. The production of the dolls temporarily ceased with the sixth generation during World War II but was revived in 1966 with Sagara Takashi as the seventh generation doll maker.

The dolls are made by putting clay into a mold and firing them in a kiln. There are several dozen varieties of dolls including sumo wrestlers and hina (Girls Day) dolls. All of the dolls are still made using the original molds that have been passed down through the generations.

The 29th Onogawa Firefly Festival

Every year in early summer, several thousand fireflies can be seen around the Omono River near the Onogawa Hot Springs. During this time, the Onogawa Firefly Festival is held and features many different events.

Festival Period: June 20th (Sat)~July 31st (Fri)

Outdoor Hot Spring Open until 21:00 every night

Firefly Tea House 6/20 (Sat)~7/21 (Mon)
(Beverages and snacks will be sold)

Firefly Viewing 20:00~21:00
(Best viewing time)

Opening Ceremony 6/20 (Sat) 19:30~

Special Events

- ①7/4 (Sat) 19:00~
- ②7/5 (Sun) 18:00~
- ③7/20 (Mon) 19:00~

About the Infant Medical Care Certificate (Benefit Program)

●The Name will be Changed to Child Raising Medical Care Certificate (Benefit Program)

Beginning July 1st 2009, the Infant Medical Care Certificate will be renamed and called the Child-Raising Medical Care Certificate. Please continue to use the Certificate that you currently have. Your Certificate will be changed during the next card renewal. *If you currently have a Medical Certificate and if your child has not entered elementary school yet, you will not need to make any changes to the Certificate.

●Hospitalization Costs for Elementary School Children Will be Covered by the Benefit Program

Beginning July 1st 2009, hospitalization costs for children of elementary school age will be covered by the benefit program so please apply for a Medical Certificate. The Medical Certificate cannot be used for hospital visits other than hospitalizations, prescriptions, home-visit nursing care, and meal costs during the period of hospitalization. Households that are imposed with income taxes must partially pay for the hospital costs (Same standard as the current system).

[How to Apply] Please apply for a medical certificate when your child is hospitalized.

Inquiries: City Children's Division TEL 22-5111

Other Events & Information

○Narushima Fureai Petting Zoo

When: 6/13 (Sat), 6/14 (Sun), 6/20 (Sat), 6/21 (Sun)

Where: Narushima Wakuwaku Land

* The event may be cancelled if it rains.

Inquiries: Narushima Wakuwaku Land Office TEL 37-2121

○The 19th Citizens Tea Ceremony

Date: 6/21 (Sun)

Time: 10:30~15:00

Place: Za No Bunka Densho Kan (Next to Children's Hall)

Cost: Free (tea ticket required)

Tea Ticket: Available at Za No Bunka Denshokan, Denkokoku No Mori, City Hall Information Desk

* Please wear socks inside the building.

Inquiries: Denkokoku No Mori TEL 26-2666

○Yonezawa One Day March

~Exchange Walking with Kita-shiobara Village~

Date: 6/21 (Sun) Registration begins at 7:30

Meeting Place: In front of Yonezawa City Hall

Who Can Participate: Anyone older than a 4th grade elementary school student and healthy.

Limit: 50 people Cost: 500 yen Deadline: 6/11 (Thu)

Other: Leave City Hall at 8:00 by bus. After arriving at Lake Hibara in Fukushima Prefecture, we will walk through Kita-shiobara Village.

Inquiries: City Social Education Division TEL 23-6535

○Jazz Café Live ~Makoto Omori Quartet~

When: 7/11 (Sat) 19:00~

Where: Museum Café Culture (Inside Denkokoku No Mori)

Cost: Advanced Tickets – 800 yen,

At-the-Door Tickets – 1,000 yen (All reserved seating)

* Includes one drink. Please refrain from bringing children younger than elementary school age. Limit: 100 people

Inquiries: Denkokoku No Mori TEL 26-2666

Yonezawa City International Relations Association (YIRA) Information

YIRA Café



If you are interested in international exchange or want to chat with people in different languages including Japanese, English, Chinese or Korean, bring your friends along and join us for a cup of tea!

When: 6/9 (Tue), 6/26 (Fri) 14:30~16:00

Where: Okitama Sogo Bunka Center

Cost: Free

- International Understanding Talk -

MIREDTA! Albania

Come and learn about the culture of Albania, a country known as the "Pearl of Europe"! You will also get to taste some traditional Albanian food.

When: 6/25 (Thu) 19:00~21:00

Where: Okitama Sogo Bunka Center

Speaker: Mr. Blendi Barolli

(Yamagata University Graduate School Researcher)

Cost: 500 yen (YIRA Members 300 yen)

Sign Ups/Inquiries: YIRA Office

TEL 22-5111 Email: yira@omn.ne.jp

Home Page: <http://www.omn.ne.jp/~yira>

If you would like to be put on our mailing list, or if you have any feedback for the newsletter, please contact us at:

• Civic Exchange Section

• Secretarial & Public Relations Division

• Yonezawa City Hall, 3rd Floor

• 5-2-25 Kanaike, Yonezawa, Yamagata 〒992-8501

• TEL: 0238-22-5111 Ext. 3005

• FAX: 0238-24-4540

• Email: hisyo-ka@city.yonezawa.yamagata.jp

• Homepage: <http://www.city.yonezawa.yamagata.jp/shisei/matidukuri/kokusai/index.html>