

**HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY** ♥

Niigata English Journal

Edited & Issued by the Niigata City International Exchange Foundation

Mail magazine: Email us to receive this newsletter every month

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Due to the state of quasi-emergency CrossPal will be closed and events cancelled between Jan. 24th–Feb. 13th

NIEF Events

CIR Lecture: Tourist Spots in France



Your French CIR, Charles, will tell you all about some incredible tourist spots outside of Paris and Nice that sadly more people don't know much about!

Date: February 19th (Sat) 14:00–15:00

Place: CrossPal Niigata 4th fl. Room 405

Fee: Free

Spots: 20 people (first come first served)

Sign-up: Call 025-225-2727 or E-mail kyokai@nief.or.jp

Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents

This is a chance to meet with a lawyer and receive free consultation regarding legal matters. Language support can be provided if needed. When signing up, tell us your name, nationality, phone number, gender, what you wish to discuss, and if you need language support.

Date: February 19th (Sat) 13:00–17:00

Place: CrossPal Niigata 2nd floor

Languages: English, Chinese, Korean, French, Russian, and more

Consultations: 5 spots. 40 min./person

Sign-up: 025-225-2727 or kyokai@nief.or.jp



Exchange Salon Exhibit: Chinese New Year

February 1st is the New Year in China. This exhibit uses pictures, videos, and decorations to show how people celebrate and bring in the Lunar New Year in China.



Dates: Feb. 14th (Mon)–26th (Sat) 9:00–17:00

Closed: Feb. 23rd

Place: International Friendship Center (CrossPal 2F)

For more info: 025-225-2727 (NIEF)

Spring Japanese Classes

Applications for the spring session Japanese classes are now open! Morning and evening classes are available in various beginners to intermediate levels.



Classes begin March 29th and plan to end in August. Come to the Friendship Center or see the website (listed at the top of this page or scan the code) to get more information and to sign up.

Talk Salon for International Families



This is a chance for international and mixed families to meet, share and get information, and simply talk about parenting, schools, and more. English and Chinese interpretation will be available and kids are invited too!

Date: Feb. 20th (Sun) 10:00–12:00

Place: CrossPal Niigata room 403

Fee: Free

Spots: 26 people (7-8 families)

Contact: 025-224-2088 (Chuo Citizen's Public Hall)

Sign-up: Online using the code or visiting the Chuo Citizen's Public Hall (中央公民館) website.



“Skill-up” Lecture for Japanese Teachers

This lecture is provided for teachers who teach Japanese to non-native speakers.

Date: March 19th (Sat) 13:30–16:30

Place: CrossPal Niigata 5F Exchange Hall

Fee: ¥500

Numbers of Participants: 30 (first-come first-served)


Application: Please make a phone call or send an email

For more info: call 025-225-2727 or email kyokai@nief.or.jp



Classes

Japanese Courses offered by the Niigata City International Exchange Foundation

Beginner through Intermediate 2	-Classes of varying difficulties are available at different times throughout the week. -Pricing info & the Fall Session Schedule are available on the NCIEF website: https://www.nief.or.jp/		Ms. Kiyoko Tanaka Tel: (025) 225-2727
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Japanese Study Support Group for Children & Students: NicoPal Club (Free of charge)

Day of the week & Hours	Room No.	Content	For more info.
Every Sat 10:00 – 12:00 (only Feb. 19 th this month)	4F Seminar room	This Japanese study circle offers support to children in the international community who are struggling with Japanese and other school studies.	Ms. Kiyoko Tanaka Tel: (025) 225-2727
Every Wed 9:30 – 11:30 (only Feb. 16 th this month)	308	To help students get the Japanese language skills needed to go to school in Japan.	

Volunteer Japanese Classes

<https://www.nief.or.jp/en/jcvg>

International Cooking Class for Foreigners

When: February 24th (Thu), 26th (Sat) & 27th (Sun) 11:00 – 14:00**Fee:** ¥1,600 (please apply with a friend!)**Where:** Ms. Ueno's residence (3-4-16 Ogijima, Akiha Ward)**Menu:** Fermented foods–One Soup & Two Sides for Girls' Festival

Girls' Festival sushi, salt koji soup, tofu with mushroom gravy, miso-glazed taro

and konnyaku, and an alcoholic drink made using sake lees

For more info/sign-up: TEL: 0250-24-6859 (Ms. Ueno) Please sign up at least three days before class

Notices

COVID-19 Vaccines in Niigata City

Vaccines are available and free for all residents of Niigata. Check the city website for the current vaccination information



Starting in Jan. people 18+ who got 2 doses will get a coupon for the **3rd dose**. They will arrive 7.5 months after your 2nd dose. Some people are eligible to get their booster shot sooner. More info on the website. Info current as of January, 2022

[Niigata City website \(English\):](http://www.city.niigata.lg.jp/iryo/kenko/yobou_kansen/coronavaccine/en.html)www.city.niigata.lg.jp/iryo/kenko/yobou_kansen/coronavaccine/en.html[Niigata City COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center \(Japanese\): 025-250-1234](http://www.city.niigata.lg.jp/iryo/kenko/yobou_kansen/coronavaccine/ja.html)

For coupon reissue or to cancel a same-day appt. (venue): 025-250-0080

Niigata Pref. Multilingual COVID-19 Hotline

Available 24/7, every day. 025-256-8573 (In English and others)

About the Quasi State of Emergency

In January, a quasi-state of emergency was declared in Niigata to last from January 21st to February 13th. With this, most public services and facilities are unavailable or limited. Additionally, restaurants have been asked to close at 8 pm (or stop serving alcohol at 8 and close at 9).

If you are a close contact* of someone who tested positive for COVID-19, please quarantine to the best of your ability for 10 days. If you feel unwell, call the hotline and/or your doctor.

*Spend at least 15 min with no mask on less than 1 meter apart, live together, etc.

Niigata City ALT Job Openings

The Niigata City Board of Education is now hiring Assistant Language Teachers. For more info, check their website.

Contract Duration: April 1, 2022–March 31, 2023**Application deadline:** February 14th (Mon)**Contact:** 025-226-3263 (Niigata City Board of Education)**URL:** www.city.niigata.lg.jp/kosodate/gakko/oshirase/20200821saiyousenkou.files/r4alltsaiyoueigo.pdf

Consultation Services

Niigata Help Association TEL: 025-228-2212	Everyday 10:00 – 23:00 English, Spanish, Korean, Chinese, Filipino, Thai, etc.
Niigata International Association TEL: 025-241-1881 Email: nia21c@niigata-ia.or.jp URL: https://www.niigata-ia.or.jp/	Weekdays 10:00 – 17:00 English, Chinese, Filipino, Thai, Vietnamese, Spanish, Portuguese
Helpline for Foreigners TEL: 0120-279-338 (toll-free)	Press 2 after the Japanese guidance
Niigata Medical Care Information Network URL: http://qq.niigata-iyaku.jp/	English, Chinese, Korean
Hello Work, Foreigner Advisory Service TEL: 025-280-8609 Niigata Misaki Godo Chosha #2 (1-2-1 Misaki-cho, Chuo Ward, Niigata City)	1 st – 4 th Wed 13:00 – 16:00 English & Chinese
Immigration Bureau Consultation	February 8 th (Tue) 13:00–17:00 Thai, Vietnamese
Gyoseishoshi Association of Niigata Consultation	February 16 th (Wed) 10:00–17:00 Chinese
Free Legal Consultation for Foreign Residents Length of Consultation: 40 minutes per person	None in Feb. Next is March 17 th (Thu) 13:00–17:00 English, Spanish, Portuguese
Education Consultation	Every Tue. 10:00–17:00 English, Chinese, Thai, Vietnamese

In person consultations may be limited or canceled.

Make a reservation by phone or email in advance.

Place: Foreign Resident Consultation Center of Niigata (2nd floor of Toki Messe)**Contact:** TEL: 025-241-1881
Email: nia10@niigata-ia.or.jp

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(Written and edited by Charlene Woolson & Ayako Homma)

CrossPal will be closed Feb. 1st-13th and 28th