

3. Raising Children and Education

(1) Receiving your Maternal and Child Health Handbook and Health Counselling for Expectant and Nursing Mothers [Public Health and Child Welfare Section in Your Local Ward Office]

● Issuance of Maternity Health Record Books

If you become pregnant, please submit the Notification of Pregnancy given to you by the medical care institution to the Public Health & Child Welfare Section in your local Ward Office and receive your maternal and child health handbook.

The maternal and child health handbook records the results of the tests, physical examinations and *vaccinations necessary for the health of the mother and child. It contains notes on pregnancy, childbirth and childcare. The records of vaccinations will be important even after your child enters elementary school. Therefore, please keep it in a safe place.
*Vaccinations: injections to prevent illness

In addition, we provide health counselling for expectant and nursing mothers when we issue you the maternal and child health handbook. Please ask at the Public Health & Child Welfare Section in your local Ward Office for the detailed schedule and locations.

● Counselling for Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Counselling on Infant Physical Examinations and Childcare

You can receive information on healthcare (from pregnancy to childbirth and childcare) and nutrition, as well as a dental examination and a consultation in the counselling we provide to expectant and nursing mothers. In addition to these, we arrange infant physical examinations (when children turn one year and six months old and again when they turn three years old), childcare counselling and rehabilitation counselling. Please ask at the Public Health & Child Welfare Section in Ward Offices for the dates and locations.

(2) Childcare Assistance and Child Welfare [Public Health and Child Welfare Section in Your Local Ward Office]

● Himawari Card

We assist with the medical expenses for children until they finish third grade of junior high school. You will need to apply for a Himawari Card to receive this assistance.

| What you will need to apply | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child's health insurance card | |
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| Details of How Much You Will Be Responsible for Paying | | |
| Type of Care | Eligibility | Maximum Amount You Will Pay for a Month of Visits to a Facility* |
| Medical (outpatient) | Less than 3 years old | Free |
| | 3 years old to sixth grade of elementary school | 700 yen |
| | Attending junior high school | 1,200 yen |
| Dental (outpatient) | Less than 5 years old | Free |

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| | 5 years old to sixth grade of junior high school | 700 yen |
| | Attending junior high school | 1,200 yen |
| Prescriptions | Less than 3 years old | Free |
| | 3 years old to sixth grade of elementary school | 700 yen |
| | Attending junior high school | 1,200 yen |

***You will pay the above amounts to the respective medical institutions. You will be asked to pay each hospital where your child receives an examination.**

●Child Allowance

We pay a child allowance to families raising children until the child finishes junior high school (income restrictions apply). You will need to apply within 15 days from the date of birth or the date you moved in.

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| What you will need to apply | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health insurance card • Passbook in the name of the applicant • <i>Inkan</i> seal | |
| <u>Details of How Much You Will Receive</u> | | |
| Classification | Eligibility | Monthly Payment |
| Households below the income limit | Less than 3 years old | 15,000 yen |
| | 3 years old to before the end of elementary school | 10,000 yen (First and second child) 15,000 yen (Third child onward) |
| | Junior high school | 10,000 yen |
| Households at or above the income limit | Until they finish junior high school | 5,000 yen |

●Childbirth Hospitalization Expense Assistance

We assist pregnant women who have financial concerns about being hospitalized for childbirth with part of the childbirth expenses. You are limited to giving birth at the following hospitals in this case (income restrictions apply).

Please apply at the Public Health & Child Welfare Section in any Ward Office.

| Maternity Care Facility | Address | Telephone |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Kumamoto Red Cross Hospital | 2-1-1 Nagamineminami, Higashi-ku | 096-384-2111 |
| Jikei Hospital | 6-1-27 Shimasaki, Nishi-ku | 096-355-6131 |
| Fukuda Hospital | 2-2-6 Shinmachi, Chuo-ku | 096-322-2995 |
| Kumamoto City Hospital | 4-1-60 Higashimachi, Higashi-ku | 096-365-1711 |

(3) Admission to Nursery Schools, Kindergartens, Elementary Schools and Junior High Schools

●Admission to Nursery Schools [Contact: Public Health and Child Welfare Section in Your Local Ward Office]

We provide childcare for you if you have a child too young to enter elementary school and you cannot care for your child at home because of work or illness. There are about 267 public and private nursery schools in Kumamoto City.

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| Application | Please apply to the nursery school you wish to enter or the Health & Children's Division in Ward Offices. Every November, we post information about admission to nursery schools beginning in April of the following year in the city newsletter. |
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● Admission to Kindergartens [Contact: Nursery School and Kindergarten Affairs Section]

We provide education to children from 3 years old to before admission to elementary school. There are about 123 public and private kindergartens in Kumamoto City.

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| Application | Please apply to the kindergarten you wish to enter. |
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●Admission to Elementary Schools and Junior High Schools [Contact: Board of Education Guidance Section]

In Japan, you must send your children to school if they are between 6 and 15 years old. Children go to elementary school from 6 years old and junior high school from 12 to 15 years old.

It is also possible for the children of foreigners to attend elementary school and junior high school in Japan. The municipal elementary school and junior high school your child will attend is determined by your address. There are also special needs classes and special needs schools for children with disabilities.

When you register as a resident in Kumamoto City, the elementary school in your area will send you information about a physical examination at the time of school admission (around October) if you have a child who is of elementary school age. Please complete the procedures by the day before the school entrance ceremony if you wish for your child to attend a municipal elementary school.

If you move to Japan in the middle of the school year, please complete the procedures to enter school with the Board of Education Guidance Division after registering as a resident. We will accept you at any time.

If you wish for your child to receive instruction in a Japanese language class to learn basic Japanese, please complete the procedures at the elementary school or junior high school after you enroll.