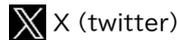


# Know Your City Newsletter 2025 May



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Wakayama City International Affairs Division



## J-ALERT Test Broadcast

▼ **Date & Time:** 28 May (Wed), 11:00 a.m. ▼ **Message:**

The emergency PA system will announce: "This is a J ALERT test" (kore wa J-arato no tesuto desu.)"

▼ **Details:** J ALERT instantly relays urgent national warnings—earthquakes, tsunamis, armed attacks—via satellite. The drill may be cancelled if seismic or weather conditions change; any cancellation will be posted promptly on the city website. ▼ **Contact:** Disaster Prevention Division ☎435-1199

## Wakamatsuri Festival

Watch a portable shrine hurtle down the 108 stone steps of Kishu Toshogu, followed by a colourful parade around Wakaura. Experience a tradition that has endured for over 4 centuries! ▼ **Date:** May 11 (Sun) (×Cancelled if it rains)  
▼ **Location:** Kishu Toshogu Shrine & Wakaura area  
▼ **Schedule:** 11:00 Portable shrine descent, 12:00 Procession departs ▼ **Contact:** Waka Festival Preservation Society ☎444-0808

## Japan–Taiwan International Friendship Concerts ♪

In Nov 2024, Wakayama and Kaohsiung signed a memorandum to promote international exchange. As part of this commitment, elementary school musicians from Taiwan will visit Wakayama to perform alongside local school ensembles. Come experience the heartwarming harmony of international friendship!

Concert	Date & Time	Venue
① Kaohsiung City	May 9 (Fri) 18:00	
② Hsinchu City	May 15 (Thu) 18:00	Wakayamajo Hall
③ Taipei City	May 26 (Mon) 18:00	

▼ **Contents:** Joint performances with Wakayama University and other local groups.

▼ **Enquiries:** Wakayama Music International Exchange Committee (web form) <http://nazuki-oka.main.jp/#>

Pick Up

## 01 Free Specific Health Checkups

**Enquiries:** National Health Insurance & Pension Division ☎ 435-1215

Listen to what your body can't say by itself—book your annual checkup! A subsidy of ¥22,400 is also available for a comprehensive medical checkup. Some clinics let you combine the checkup with cancer screenings.

**Eligibility:** Residents aged 40-74 who are enrolled in Wakayama City National Health Insurance as of 1 Apr 2025

※You also must be enrolled on the day of the exam.

**Exam period:** Until 31 Jan 2026.

**Cost:** Completely free of charge.

**How to receive the checkup:**

1. Early May – A green exam voucher will arrive by post.
2. Book early with any participating medical facility.
3. On the day, bring your exam voucher and one of the following: your My Number insurance card, an eligibility certificate, or a valid National Health Insurance card. The checkup takes about one hour.
4. The medical facility of your checkup will release the results of your exam.

**What's checked?** Physical examination, ECG, urine test, body measurements, blood pressure, and blood tests (lipids, blood sugar, liver function, kidney function, anaemia, gout).

## Tax & Insurance Premium Deadlines

**June 2 (Mon)**

**Nursing Care Insurance Premiums (April installment)** Nursing Care Insurance Division: ☎ 435-1334

**Property & City Planning Tax (all/1st installment)**

**Light Vehicle Tax (category based, full year)**

\*For easy payments, consider direct deposit apply at applicable financial institutions.

**Contact:** Tax Revenue Division ☎435-1038

## Support Allowance for Rising Prices

**Apply by July 31 (Thurs)**

¥30,000 per household exempt from 2024 residence tax.  
+ ¥20,000 per child aged 18 or under.

▼ **More info:** Wakayama City website (Page ID: 1060851 / 1060888) ▼ **Reference date:** 13 Dec 2024.

If any household member moved into Wakayama City after 2 Jan 2024, an application form is required—please contact us.

▼ **Allowance Secretariat:** 1F, Fujita Sangyo Rokubancho Bldg., 19 Rokubancho ☎ 0120-969-861 or 499-5184 (Weekdays \*excl. holidays 08:30-17:15)

▼ **Division in Charge:** Livelihood Support Division 2

## A New Learning Space

Wakayama Akebono Municipal Junior High School opens its doors!  
**April 12 (Sat)**



This spring, Wakayama Akebono Municipal Junior High School—Wakayama Prefecture's first evening junior high school—opened its doors. At the opening ceremony, nine students, ranging in age from teenagers to their 70s, took their first steps back into learning. If you wish to study or restart your education, enquiries are welcome at any time. Contact: Education Support Division ☎435-1139

### Lucky Draw Campaign!

Out of all examinees, 100 winners will receive a ¥1,000 QUO card + disaster preparedness items.

# Supporting Each Other for Sustainable Health Care Revision of National Health Insurance Premium Rates (FY 2025)

Contact: National Health Insurance & Pension Division: Finance ☎ 435-1215 | Premium Assessment ☎ 435-1057

For 16 years, Wakayama City has managed to keep National Health Insurance premiums unchanged by controlling medical costs and using subsidies. However, with a declining number of members and increasingly advanced medical treatments, per-person healthcare expenses have risen. As a result, the gap between current premiums and the prefecture’s standard premium continues to widen, placing strain on the insurance fund.

Until now, shortfalls have been covered using carryover funds; however, these funds are expected to run out in the near future, leading to a severe financial situation.

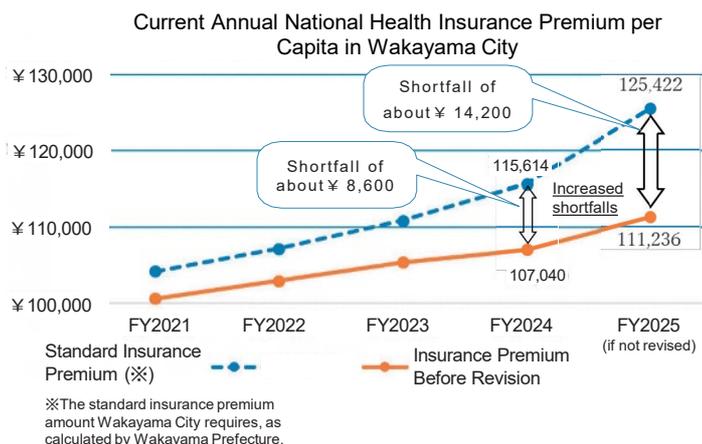
To stabilize the fund—and in line with Wakayama Prefecture’s plan to standardize premium levels across the prefecture by FY2030—Wakayama City will revise premium rates starting in FY2025. To reduce the financial burden on residents, carryover funds will be used to soften the impact of the increase.

## What is premium standardization?

In March 2024, Wakayama Prefecture formulated its Third Term National Health Insurance Operation Policy, aiming to fully unify premium levels across the prefecture by FY2030. Under this policy, households with the same income level and composition will pay the same premiums, regardless of where they live in the prefecture.

## Why is the prefecture involved?

Since FY2018, National Health Insurance has been managed on a prefecture-wide basis. The prefectural government covers the total medical costs and each municipality pays a designated contribution to the prefecture. To calculate these contributions, the prefecture provides a standard premium as a reference for municipalities.



## Details of the Insurance Premium Revision

Classification		Before Revision FY 2024	After Revision FY2025	Change
Medical Care Portion	income based levy	9.37%	9.21%	▲ 0.16%
	per-capita levy	¥ 24,600	¥ 28,560	+ ¥ 3,960
	per-household levy	¥ 22,800	¥ 22,680	▲ ¥ 120
Support Portion	income based levy	2.35%	2.71%	+ 0.36%
	per-capita levy	¥ 7,560	¥ 9,240	+ ¥ 1,680
	per-household levy	¥ 5,760	¥ 6,720	+ ¥ 960
Nursing Care Portion	income based levy	2.59%	2.59%	No Change
	per-capita levy	¥ 8,760	¥ 9,840	+ ¥ 1,080
	per-household levy	¥ 5,160	¥ 5,400	+ ¥ 240

(Reference) FY2025 Standard Insurance Premium Rate
9.04%
¥ 32,463
¥ 22,467
3.06%
¥ 10,876
¥ 7,527
2.58%
¥ 10,895
¥ 5,621

**The average annual premium per National Health Insurance member (total premiums divided by number of insured persons) is expected to increase by approximately ¥7,300.**

Your specific premium amount will be listed in the notification sent in mid-to-late June.

※Premiums vary based on your household income in FY2024 and the number of insured members in your household.

**Breakdown of Premium Structures:** Income based levy (calculated on total household income) / per capita levy (calculated on the number of insured members in the household) / per-household levy (calculated per household).

## Exemptions & Reductions

- **Preschool Children Reductions:** 50 % discount on the per capita levy for preschool children (children not yet enrolled in elementary school).
- **Discounts based on total household income:** Discounts on both the per capita and per household levies are available based on total household income. This year, eligibility for the 50% & 20% reductions has been expanded.
- **Maternity-related premium reductions:** Reductions apply to both the income-based and per capita portions of the premium during the prenatal and postnatal periods for the insured person giving birth. For a standard pregnancy, the reduction covers the equivalent of the following period: one month before the expected (or actual) month of delivery through the second month after. For a multiple pregnancy, the reduction covers a six-month period, starting from three months before the expected (or actual) month of delivery. ※Pregnancies lasting 85 days or more are eligible for this reduction. This includes stillbirths, miscarriages, and premature births.
- Exemptions may be available for those who lost employment due to bankruptcy, dismissal, illness, etc., or were affected by natural disasters such as earthquakes or fires.

**Details:** Wakayama City website ID: 1061508 (enter the ID in the site search box).