

'Individual Number' (マイナンバー) System

The 'Individual Number' system was implemented in October 2015, with local municipal government offices tasked with sending out a notification card to all residents, that listed their Individual Number along with application materials to apply for a plastic, Individual Number Card. The 'Individual Number' is much like a social security number.

It is **not compulsory** to apply for a plastic 'Individual Number Card', but it might prove to be easier to keep track of than the original paper notification card.

Please note that it can take up to 3 months to be issued with a plastic card, therefore this is not recommended for those on shorter programs.

The number you are issued while here on your stay in Japan will be the number assigned to you for the rest of your life, so if you come and stay here in Japan again, you will be using the same number on government service related forms.

You should not share the number, and keep the information private. Examples of places where the number is used is tax offices, local government, place of employment, financial institutions, pension organizations, medical insurers, and Hello Work Offices.

If you move during your time in Japan, you will need to submit a Moving Notification to the municipal office, and also present your notification card or Individual Number Card to have the details on it changed.

For other cases as well, if there are any changes to the information printed on your notification card or Individual Number Card, you must submit a notification to your municipality within 14 days and have that change reflected on your card.

Differences between the Notification Card and the Individual Number Card.

Notification Card: Paper. Information on card – Name, address, date of birth and sex and individual number. No ID photo. So, you will need to submit another form of ID along with the card when using it.



Individual Number Card: Plastic with an IC chip. Information on card – name, address, date of birth and sex, ID photo on front, and individual number on back. Can use as ID to confirm identity. Will make electronic filing of taxes easier. Can be used as ID for things where a photo ID is required such as gym membership, but the shop should not copy or write down the individual number. You are not legally required to receive or carry the Individual Number Card.



My Number Call Center: 0570-20-0178

Multilingual Call Centers (English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese):
0570-20-0291

About Registered Post Delivery:

If you are not home to receive the Notification Card personally, you must contact the Post Office to reschedule the delivery of the card.

Option 1: If you phone by 7pm on the day that you receive an Undeliverable Item notice from the Post Office, it should be possible for them to deliver your card that night by 9pm.

Option 2: Reschedule delivery by phone or on the internet for one of the following times: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m., 12-2 p.m., 2-5 p.m., 5-7 p.m., 7-9 p.m.

Option 3: Take the Undeliverable Item notice, along with a Photo ID, to the post office that is holding your Notification Card and pick it up in person. You will need to confirm which post office and also opening hours for that post office.

This is what an Undeliverable Item Notice looks like:



Check List:

1. Be at home to receive the notification card / application for Individual Number card.
2. If not at home, use either option 1, 2, or 3 to receive the notification card / application for Individual Number card.
3. Keep the notification card with your passport in a safe place. Take a number of copies so that if anything happens, you still have a record of your identification number.