

Reading and Talking

Face masks

Wearing a face mask is an important way to stop coronavirus/Covid-19. Everyone is buying masks, so some non-mask-making companies are now making them. Sharp makes disposable masks. A box of 50 is 2,980 yen at <<https://cocorolife.jp.sharp/mask/>>. On May 15th, Atsugi, which makes women's stockings, began selling "Araeru Nuno Masuku" (Washable Cloth Mask) for 418 yen each at <<https://bit.ly/3gcFhVV>>. Mizuno now makes washable polyester masks. You can buy them at the end of May for 935 yen each at <<https://bit.ly/3d2T0wR>>.

(81 words)

Have you bought masks recently?

↳Yes, I have. (--Where did you buy them? / How much were they? / Why did you choose them?)

↳No, I haven't. (--Do you have enough masks? / Did you often wear a mask before the coronavirus outbreak started this year?)

Have you or your family gotten two cloth masks from the government yet?

↳Yes, I have. (--When did you get them? / Do they fit you, or are they too small? / Who is using them?)

↳No, I haven't. (--Do you know someone who already got them? / Have you finished applying for the 100,000 yen "kyuufukin" special payment from the government?)

Do you think a vaccine for Covid-19 is going to be available this year?

↳Yes, I do. / Kind of. (--When do you think it's going to appear? / Which country's company do you think is going to make it?)

↳No, I don't. (--When do you think it's going to appear? / Do you think medicine for Covid-19 is going to be available soon?)

(May 22, 2020)

More information

Face masks

At the time of writing, coronavirus/Covid-19 cases are decreasing. However, until medicines and vaccines are available to combat the disease, it is very important to stay vigilant. Precautions such as hand-washing, mask-wearing and social-distancing are crucial for stopping the spread of infection.

For a time, it was very difficult to find face masks for sale, as mask manufacturing companies were overwhelmed by demand. Now, masks are beginning to reappear on store shelves and for sale online. Part of the reason is that some non-mask-making companies are stepping into the breach.

Sharp, an electronics company, is making disposable non-woven masks. A box of 50 is ¥2,980 at <<https://cocorolife.jp.sharp/mask/>>. Atsugi, which makes pantyhose, stockings, and underwear, began selling “Araeru Nuno Masuku” (Washable Cloth Mask) on May 15. The nylon mask has a pocket where you can put a handkerchief or gauze for extra protection. There are three colors, and they are ¥418 each at <<https://bit.ly/3gcFhVV>>. Mizuno, a sports gear company, is making washable polyester masks. They are available at the end of May in five colors for ¥935 each at <<https://bit.ly/3d2T0wR>>.

(181 words)

Reading and Talking

New hand-held electric fan

Summer is coming. Last year, small, hand-held electric fans were popular on hot days. At the end of May, Apix, an Osaka company, is going to sell “Mist Handy Fan.” It is a hand-held electric fan that also makes a misty cloud of water to cool you down. The fan power can be low, medium or high, and you can choose air and mist, only air, or only mist. If you fold the fan, you can also put it on your desk. A rechargeable battery runs the fan for two to five hours. Mist Handy Fan costs 2,980 yen.

(100 words)

Do you want to buy a “Mist Handy Fan”?

↳Yes, I do. / Kind of. (--What do you think about the price? / Do you have a portable hand-held electric fan?)

↳No, I don't. (--Why don't you want to buy one? / Do you think it's going to be a hit product this summer?)

Do you use electric fans at home?

↳Yes, I do. (--How many electric fans do you use in summer? / Have you started using them yet? / Do you keep them in a closet in the winter?)

↳No, I don't. (--Do you use a “joshitsuki” dehumidifier at home? / Do you use an “uchiwa” fan at home?)

Do you like summer?

↳Yes, I do. / Kind of. (--What is the best thing about summer? / Which do you like better, summer or autumn? / Do you think this summer is going to be very hot?)

↳No, I don't. (--How come you don't like summer? / Do you like winter? / What's your favorite summer food and drink?)

(May 22, 2020)

More information

New hand-held electric fan

The rainy season started in Okinawa Prefecture on May 11, so it's only a matter of time before the hot, muggy summer begins. Last summer, portable hand-held electric fans began to be popular. Like every new and successful device, this one is developing by leaps and bounds.

At the end of May, Apix, an Osaka home appliance company, debuts "Mist Handy Fan," a hand-held electric fan that also sends out a mist of water to cool you down. It looks like a thick lollipop, with a round top on a long handle or neck. The air blows out of a window at the top, and mist comes out of a hole in the middle. The fan can be low, medium or high, and you can choose air and mist, only air, or only mist. If you fold the neck underneath the head, the fan can also sit on your desk. A rechargeable battery lets the device run continuously for two to five hours.

Mist Handy Fan is 23 centimeters tall. It weighs 186 grams, and it's available in white, blue or pink for ¥2,980.

(187 words)

(May 22, 2020)