

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) updated information for each diocese of the NSKK

As at 31 July 2020

Diocese	Action	Restriction period, etc.	Notes
Hokkaido	No general suspension of communal worship	Worship has now resumed on Sundays and weekdays, everyone is welcome to participate. Any worshippers who feel worried about attending, are encouraged to worship at home	Thorough health management /hygiene protocols are in place Each church's individual judgments are to be respected, made after consultation with the bishop Events and meetings will take place with sufficient precautionary measures taken Clergy will consider offering pastoral Sunday worship at people's homes
Tohoku	Resumption of communal worship	Communal Sunday worship, etc. resumed from 7 June Funerals can take place with sufficient precautionary measures taken	Inform congregations about thorough health management and hygiene protocols based upon 'Guidelines for Sunday Worship and Resumption of Parish Missionary Activities" issued on 28 May If there is a very small number of infected people in the neighboring municipalities and worship is to be suspended (wearing masks still posing a risk) according to the guidelines, consultation shall be made with parish council and bishop. Donations will be received when worship resumes Diocesan office working hours returned to normal (9:00-17:00) from 7 June Scheduled meetings to be considered to be postponed, or carried out by E-mail or video-conference, or preventative measures taken if meeting in person
Kita-Kanto	Resumption of communal worship	All churches resumed communal worship from 7 June Consideration will be made, however, of the changing situation of each local church community, and necessary measures taken	Inform congregations about thorough health management and hygiene protocols during worship. If continued suspension is thought necessary for any church, consultation to be made with the bishop Meetings in general continue to be suspended, but gatherings and meetings necessary for parochial operation (including various committees) may be conducted after sufficient precautionary measures are taken
Tokyo	Communal worship to resume in stages, although some churches may suspend worship	From July, communal public worship may be resumed, after adequate preventative measures are taken. This will vary depending upon the church (considering location, needs, movement, etc.). Some worship services may be suspended or resumed (all or partly). This situation will be continually monitored and proper response to increased cases of infection made. Format the worship takes (style of ceremony, times the service is performed, limits to number of congregants, etc.) depends on each individual situation Until further notice diocesan requiem services will be held only with family members of the deceased in attendance Funerals will take place with sufficient precautionary measures taken Online distribution of cathedral worship and liturgy will continue throughout at least August	Meetings and gatherings other than worship including where online meetings are possible alternatives, with or without food and drink are to continue to be refrained from holding Congregants are requested to not attend worship or physical meetings other than at the church they belong to. If attendance at worship is unavoidable, please contact the church by noon the day before to obtain permission Inform congregations about thorough health management and hygiene protocols, with particular attention made to those churches resuming worship Church doors to be kept open, so people can enter Any case of infection confirmed, is to be reported to the diocesan secretary; in the case of clergy infection, the church will immediately suspend all activities to prevent the spread of infection and close for disinfection Diocesan office hours will be shortened from August, to (Monday-Friday 10:30-12:30, 13:30-15:30) until further notice
Yokohama	Resumption of communal worship	Sunday communal worship restarted on 7 June, with limited numbers of congregation Weekday worship and church meetings restarted on 23 May Unless unavoidable, please refrain from attending worship	Guidelines for worship have been revised to reflect resumption of Sunday services Continue to thoroughly implement precautionary measures in accordance with the worship guidelines Communal meals are still suspended Diocesan Office working hours returned to normal from June (Monday-Friday 10:00-17:00)

Chubu	Resumption of communal worship	Sunday and weekday communal worship resumption after 1 June will be decided by each church based on the "Guidelines for Resuming Worship" distributed	Revised diocesan policy and "Guidelines for Resuming Worship" were issued on 31 May 31 Meetings, gatherings, events (including prayer services), etc. will resume in stages (email or web conference still recommended) Diocesan Office working hours to return to normal from June (Monday to Friday 9:00 to 17:00)
Kyoto	No general suspension of communal worship	Each church will decide for themselves what action to take Most churches have resumed communal worship	Inform congregations about thorough health management and hygiene protocols Regularly share the situation at each church Many events and meetings are cancelled or postponed Diocesan regular office hours resumed from 1 June (9am to 5pm) Ordination scheduled for 29 August will go ahead with limited people and precautionary measures taken
Osaka	Resumption of communal worship	Communal worship has resumed on Sundays (through either Holy Eucharist or Service of the Word).	Diocesan and church meetings continue to be suspended Meetings of external groups are permitted with compliance with infection control measures Regarding resumption of gatherings such as choir practice, bible study, etc., the judgments of clergy and church committees will be respected, taking into account differing circumstances for each church Diocesan office will shorten to weekdays 11:00 am to 5:00 pm with two staff working in rotation
Kobe	Resumption of communal worship	Almost all churches and missions in the diocese have resumed Eucharist services (with communion in one kind) from June, although several churches in Kobe city only hold a Service of the Word	New guidelines for resumption of public worship have been issued by the bishop to all churches on 1 June. Online service for Pentecost Sunday and clergy Easter messages have been uploaded to diocesan homepage Questionnaire issued to understand the status of worship in each church weekly Diocesan Office working hours are shortened until further notice (10:00-16:00)
Kyushu	Resumption of communal worship	Attendance at Sunday worship is not recommended for those who are ill or have to use public transport	Inform congregations about thorough health management and hygiene protocols (about protecting oneself) All suspended churches have resumed communal worship (excepting Kikuchi Reimei Church and Church of the Resurrection, Kagoshima) The ability to hold Web-based meetings for parish committees has been established Diocesan office will operate regular office hours from June, with precautionary measures being taken
Okinawa	Resumption of communal worship	Communal worship has resumed in almost all churches dependent on local decisions Worship at St. Michael's Church, Minami Shizuen remains suspended until the facility permits resumption	Inform congregations about thorough health management and hygiene protocols Diocesan ordination scheduled for 25/4 is postponed until 19 September Clergy gatherings and committee meetings can be held from July in person (online attendance is also possible) Lending of halls to resume from July

Provincial Office

From 1 August, working hours will be weekdays 10:00-16:30 until further notice. Any urgent contact can be made to Provincial Secretary Yahagi.