

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

As at 11 September 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 worshipers who feel worried about attending, are encouraged to worship at home Bishop's visits to local churches have resumed	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 Diocesan events planned for autumn and winter are currently under consideration
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 30 July (with revision no.6 online) If a cluster is detected in neighboring municipalities - with a large number of infections - worship is to be suspended according to the guidelines, consultation shall be made with church council and bishop. If there is any reason why worship cannot be suspended, after consultations, this should be reported to the diocesan bishop who will make the final decision Regarding the wearing of masks, and issues of possible heatstroke, drinking is permitted during worship Gloves need not be worn during the eucharistic prayer as long as the celebrant's hands have been disinfected immediately prior Recommended that all meetings are carried out through email and online meetings. In-person meetings are possible after taking adequate prevention measures
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 necessary diocesan gatherings and meetings (including various committees) may be conducted after sufficient precautionary measures are taken
Tokyo	The provision of communal worship is to be determined by individual churches	Communal public worship may be available if adequate preventative measures are taken; dependant upon each church/chapel situation (considering location, needs, movement/arrangement of congregation, etc.) Some churches may remain partially or wholly suspended Online availability of cathedral worship and liturgy will continue until further notice	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 beforehand to obtain permission Meetings and gatherings other than worship can be held only when essential (and online alternatives are not possible), and with adequate precautionary measures taken (online meetings and gatherings are possible at any time) Any case of infection confirmed, is to be reported to the diocesan secretary Diocesan office hours will be shortened from August, to (Mon-Fri 10:30-12:30, 13:30-15:30) until further notice
Yokohama	Resumption of communal worship	Sunday communal worship restarted in June, with precautionary measures being taken Please refrain from attending worship services at other churches or dioceses until further notice For churches in Kanagawa and northwestern Chiba - adjacent to Tokyo - please refrain from using public transportation Each church will decide whether or not to resume communal worship based on the infection status of each area	Continue to thoroughly implement precautionary measures in accordance with the worship guidelines Diocesan Office working hours returned to normal from June (Monday-Friday 10:00-17:00) 7 August guidelines issued regarding 'Implementation of Response to Reinfection of Virus'

Chubu	Resumption of communal worship with possible re-suspension	Sunday and weekday communal worship resumed from 1 June, with each church's judgment based on "Guidelines for Resuming Worship" Decision for re-suspension at each church based on the spread of infection	Revised diocesan policy and "Guidelines for Resuming Worship" were issued on 31 May Meetings, gatherings, events (including prayer services), etc. will resume in stages (email or web conference still recommended) Diocesan Office hours will be shortened from August (Monday to Friday 10:00 to 16:00)
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)
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	Churches and mission stations in the diocese have resumed Eucharist services (with communion in one kind, or Service of the Word only)	New guidelines for resumption of public worship have been issued by the bishop to all churches on 4 August based on previous guidelines of 1 June. Online service for Pentecost; clergy Easter messages and other services are available on 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) Sunday worship is currently suspended at Kikuchi Reimei Church and Itsukihara St. John's Church. Communal worship will be suspended at Holy Trinity Church, Miyazaki during September The ability to hold web-based diocesan committee meetings has been established
Okinawa	Communal worship varies according to church	Offering of communal worship will be determined by individual churches	Inform congregations about thorough health management and hygiene protocols Diocesan ordination is scheduled for 19 September on a reduced scale Clergy gatherings and committee meetings are to be held online

Provincial Office

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