

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

As at 4 December 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 (including events with food) 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 7 October (with revision no.7 online) If a large cluster is detected nearby, 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 used during the eucharist if the celebrant's hands were disinfected immediately prior Recommended that all meetings are carried out through email and online meetings. In-person meetings are permitted after taking adequate preventative measures
Kita-Kanto	Resumption of communal worship	All churches resumed communal worship from 7 June Consideration will be made, however, of each local situation, 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	Resumption of communal worship with some cases of re-suspension	Communal public worship can take place dependant upon individual church's situations (location, requirements, seating arrangements, etc.) and after taking adequate precautions. Some churches may re-suspend worship. Some churches are uploading their worship to the internet.	The scheduled 136th and 137th (regular) parish meetings will now be conducted mainly through written responses Ordination service (19/12) will be held with a limited number of attendees and streamed live via the cathedral homepage Meetings and gatherings other than worship can only be held when vital for church operation (and with adequate precautions taken) When attending worship at a church other than one's home church, contact must be made in advance and permission obtained Any case of confirmed infection, is to be reported to the diocesan secretary Diocesan office hours are currently shortened (Mon-Fri 10:30-12:30, 13:30-15:30) until further notice

Yokohama	Resumption of communal worship	<p>Guidelines for worship resumption were issued on 25/5</p> <p>Communal worship restarted in June, with precautionary measures being taken</p> <p>Members asked to refrain from attending services at other churches or dioceses until further notice</p> <p>For churches in Kanagawa and northwestern Chiba - adjacent to Tokyo - congregants should refrain from using public transportation</p> <p>Each church will decide whether to offer communal worship based on the infection status of each area</p>	<p>Continue to thoroughly implement precautionary measures in accordance with the worship guidelines</p> <p>Diocesan Office working hours returned to normal from June (Monday-Friday 10:00-17:00)</p> <p>7 August guidelines issued regarding 'Implementation of Response to Reinfection of Virus'</p> <p>On 14/11, clergy were issue with revised guidelines for offering worship</p>
Chubu	Resumption of communal worship with possible re-suspension	<p>Sunday and weekday communal worship resumed from 1 June, with each church's decision based on "Guidelines for Resuming Worship"</p> <p>Re-suspension will be determined by the spread of infection</p>	<p>Revised diocesan policy and "Guidelines for Resuming Worship" were issued on 31 May</p> <p>Meetings, gatherings, events (including prayer services), etc. will resume in stages (email or web meetings recommended)</p> <p>Diocesan Office hours from 5 October will be (Monday to Friday 9:30 to 16:30)</p>
Kyoto	No general suspension of communal worship	<p>Each church will decide for themselves what action to take</p> <p>Most churches have resumed communal worship</p>	<p>Inform congregations about thorough health management and hygiene protocols</p> <p>Regularly share the situation at each church</p> <p>Many events and meetings are cancelled or postponed</p> <p>Diocesan regular office hours resumed from 1 June (9am to 5pm)</p>
Osaka	Resumption of communal worship	<p>Communal worship has resumed on Sundays (either Holy Eucharist or Service of the Word)</p> <p>The diocese accepts it will be difficult for many people to freely participate in Christmas worship this year</p> <p>In general churches and congregants are asked to refrain from holding Christmas celebrations and parties</p>	<p>Diocesan and church meetings continue to be suspended</p> <p>Meetings of external groups are permitted with compliance with infection control measures</p> <p>The resumption of gatherings such as choir practice, bible study, etc., will follow the judgments of clergy and church committees, considering each church's differing circumstances</p> <p>Diocesan office will shorten to weekdays 11:00 am to 5:00 pm with two staff working in rotation</p>
Kobe	Resumption of communal worship	<p>Churches and mission stations in the diocese have resumed Eucharist services (with communion in one kind, or Service of the Word only)</p>	<p>New guidelines for resumption of public worship have been issued by the bishop to all churches on 10 November based on those of 31 May.</p> <p>Questionnaire issued to understand the status of worship in each church weekly</p> <p>Diocesan Office working hours are shortened until further notice (10:00-16:00)</p>
Kyushu	Resumption of communal worship	<p>Attendance at Sunday worship is not recommended for those who are ill or have to use public transport</p>	<p>Inform congregations about thorough health management and hygiene protocols (about protecting oneself)</p> <p>Sunday worship is currently suspended at Kikuchi Reimei Church.</p> <p>The ability to hold web-based diocesan committee meetings has been established</p>
Okinawa	Resumption of communal worship	<p>Offering of communal worship will be determined by individual churches</p>	<p>Worshiping to take place with proper preventative measures taken</p> <p>Clergy gatherings and committee meetings can be held in person or online</p>

Provincial Office

From 25 November until further notice, Provincial Office will be open the following hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00-16:30; Tuesday & Thursday will be working from home.

Email correspondence is welcome at all times. For urgent matters, please contact General Secretary Yahagi.