

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) updated information for each diocese of the NSKK
As at 8 January 2021

| Diocese | Action | Restriction period, etc. | Notes |
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| 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 | Thorough health management/hygiene protocols are in place - especially for adequate ventilation 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 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 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 Due to the wearing of masks, drinking is permitted during worship to ensure adequate hydration The celebrant's hands are to be disinfected immediately prior to the Eucharistic Prayer, and also those of communicants, prior to receiving Recommended that all meetings are carried out through email and online meetings. In-person meetings are permitted after taking adequate preventative measures |
| Kita-Kanto | Partial suspension of communal worship | Churches and chapels in the Saitama Deanery will suspend public worship from the date of the declaration of State of Emergency Funerals to be held with sufficient preventative measures taken | Churches and chapels in Ibaraki, Tochigi, and Gunma prefectures are to be extra-careful with precautionary measures; if felt necessary to suspend worship 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 | Re-suspension of communal worship | Communal public worship is suspended from December 27th Funerals and the opening of church facilities can take place with adequate preventative measures, and according to the situation of the church/chapel Some churches are uploading their worship to the internet | 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 | Guidelines for worship resumption were issued on 25/5 Members asked to refrain from attending services at other churches or dioceses until further notice For churches in Kanagawa and northwestern Chiba - adjacent to Tokyo - congregants should refrain from using public transportation Each church will decide whether to re-suspend communal worship based on the infection status of each area | Continue to worship implementing 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' On 14/11, clergy were issue with revised guidelines for offering worship On December 12, clergy were notified of the spread of infection From January 2021, public worship will be suspended - at the discretion of each church - in Kanagawa and Chiba prefectures; contained within the government's State of Emergency |

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| Chubu | Resumption of communal worship with possible re-suspension | Sunday and weekday communal worship resumed from 1 June, with each church's decision based on "Guidelines for Resuming Worship" Re-suspension will be determined by 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 meetings recommended) Diocesan Office hours from 5 October will be (Monday to Friday 9:30 to 16:30) |
| 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 | Public worship to be suspended from January 11th to February 13th; strongly recommended that elderly people and those with physical conditions worship at home, but diocese will respect each church's judgement | Diocesan and church meetings continue to be suspended Meetings of external groups are permitted with compliance with infection control measures 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 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) Some churches have requested non-attendance by congregants | 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. 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. Public worship is also suspended at Holy Trinity Church, Kumamoto (priest will celebrate the Eucharist at home) The Church of the Advent, Kumamoto will hold Evening Prayer/Communion every Tuesday evening, and Eucharist every 3rd Sunday The ability to hold web-based diocesan committee meetings has been established |
| Okinawa | Resumption of communal worship | Offering of communal worship will be determined by individual churches | Worshiping to take place with proper preventative measures taken Clergy gatherings and committee meetings can be held in person or online |

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.