

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

As at 5 February 2021

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	Thorough health management/hygiene protocols are in place - especially for adequate ventilation Each church's individual judgments are to be respected regarding suspension, 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 Diocesan Activities' issued on 7 October (with revision no.7 online) If a 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/servers' 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 via email or 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	Meetings continue to be suspended for the time being Churches and chapels in Ibaraki, Tochigi, and Gunma Deaneries 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 local situation Some churches offer online or streamed worship	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, Wed, Fri. 10:30-12:30, 13:30-15:30) until further notice
Yokohama	Resumption of communal worship or suspension	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	Worship is permitted ensuring guidelines are strictly adhered regarding preventative measures 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 During the 'State of Emergency', up to two people will work at the Diocesan Office to avoid crowding From January 1, 2021, public worship is suspended throughout Kanagawa Prefecture and also the churches at Ichikawa, Matsudo, Kashiwa, Chiba, Fukuda (Narita City), Kamogawa, and Izu and Numazu in Shizuoka Prefecture

Chubu	Resumption of communal worship or 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>Churches in geographical areas covered by the State of Emergency continue to suspend public worship</p>	<p>Revised diocesan policy and "Guidelines for Resuming Worship" were issued on 31 May</p> <p>Bishop's letter was issued on 13 December entitled 'Coronavirus Infectious Diseases and Our Church</p> <p>'Response under the State of Emergency' announcement issued 13 January</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	Many churches are currently suspending communal worship	<p>Each church is deciding for themselves what action to take, although most churches have suspended Sunday worship until 7 February. As the State of Emergency was extended, these suspensions will also likely be extended</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 office is operating regular hours (9am to 5pm)</p>
Osaka	Resumption of communal worship or suspension	<p>Public worship continues to be suspended until March 7th; it is strongly recommended that elderly people and those with physical conditions worship at home, but ultimately each church will decide for themselves</p>	<p>Diocese wishes to reaffirm that in the current situation, non-attendance at worship is not displaying unbelief, rather a protecting of each other's lives</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 or suspension	<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>Some churches in Hyogo Prefecture have requested congregants to refrain from attendance</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>Diocesan Office working hours are shortened until further notice (10:00-16:00)</p>
Kyushu	Partial suspension 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, St. Andrew's, Tobata, St. Stephen's, Nobeoka and St. John's, Gakuhara.</p> <p>Public worship is also suspended at Holy Trinity Church, Kumamoto (priest will celebrate the Eucharist at home)</p> <p>The ability to hold web-based diocesan committee meetings has been established</p>
Okinawa	Suspension of communal worship	<p>Following Okinawa Prefecture's enacting of a State of Emergency, all public worship services are suspended</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.