

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

As at 25 March 2022

Diocese	Action	Restriction period, etc.	Notes
Hokkaido	In general public worship is offered, but at each church's discretion	Churches which offer scheduled Sunday or weekday communal worship welcome anybody to attend, although those with concerns are invited to worship at home	<p>Thorough health management/hygiene protocols are in place - especially for infection control and adequate ventilation, and will be rigorously enforced</p> <p>Each church's individual judgments are to be respected regarding suspension, after consultation with the bishop</p> <p>Events and meetings will take place with sufficient precautionary measures taken, although currently events with food are to be refrained from</p> <p>Clergy will consider those congregants who wish to worship at home</p> <p>Episcopal visits will be carried out as scheduled (although may be cancelled or postponed depending on changes in infection status)</p>
Tohoku	In general public worship is offered, but at each church's discretion	<p>Communal Sunday worship can take place with adequate precautions taken</p> <p>All precautionary measures have been reconfirmed at each church</p> <p>Funerals can also take place with sufficient precautions taken</p> <p>All are requested to continue to maintain vigilance (following guidelines #8-3)</p> <p>Morioka Anglican Church continues to suspend public worship under the "Iwate Emergency Declaration"</p> <p>In cases when worship is to be suspended, consultation to be made with the Bishop</p> <p>Communion in one kind to be considered depending upon the situation</p> <p>Necessary precautions to be taken to prevent infection when holding meetings</p>	<p>Inform congregations about thorough health management and hygiene protocols based upon updated 'Guidelines for Sunday Worship and Diocesan Activities' issued on 18 November (with revision no.8-3, dated 3 Feb, 2022 online)</p> <p>From the guidelines, if a cluster is discovered in that week, the priest and church committee will discuss and decide what to do; if suspension is thought suitable this will be reported to the bishop</p> <p>Masks to be worn and adequate ventilation ensured. Drinking is permitted during worship to ensure adequate hydration</p> <p>The celebrant's/servers' hands are to be disinfected immediately prior to the Eucharistic Prayer, and also those of communicants, prior to receiving</p> <p>Scheduled meetings should be conducted by e-mail and web conferencing as much as possible</p>
Kita-Kanto	Resumption or suspension of communal worship	<p>In discussion together, each church will decide appropriate measures to take according to the local situation</p> <p>Funerals held with sufficient preventative measures taken</p>	<p>Churches and chapels offering public worship are to ensure adequate precautionary measures are taken, especially where other facilities are attached to the church</p> <p>Any in doubt regarding these issues will consult with the diocesan bishop</p> <p>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</p>
Tokyo	Resumption or suspension of communal worship	<p>Amid growing concerns about the spread of infection, public worship services at each church and chapel will be held according to individual situations, taking measures to prevent infection.</p> <p>Some churches and chapels will therefore suspend public worship</p>	<p>Meetings and gatherings other than worship can only be held when vital (and with adequate precautions taken)</p> <p>When attending worship at a church other than one's home church, contact must be made in advance and permission obtained</p> <p>Any case of confirmed infection, is to be reported to the diocesan secretary</p> <p>Diocesan office will operate at shortened hours (10:00-16:30) until further notice</p>
Yokohama	Plans to resume communal worship	<p>All churches to thoroughly implement worship guidelines (January 2022 reissue), and also 'Guidelines for Church Response in the Event of Coronavirus Infection'</p> <p>Congregants asked to refrain from attending services at other churches or dioceses until further notice</p> <p>Each church will decide whether to re-suspend communal worship based on the infection status of each area</p>	<p>Diocesan Office will return to regular hours from 22 March (10:00 - 17:00)</p> <p>Those churches which suspended communal worship will gradually resume services</p>

Chubu	Resumption of communal worship	Churches decide whether to resume or suspend Sunday or weekday worship based on the 'Guidelines for Resuming Worship.' Churches in areas under a State of Emergency will continue to suspend public worship Churches in areas under Primary Preventative Measures are prohibited from singing or chanting	Revised diocesan policy and "Guidelines for Resuming Worship" were issued on 31 May 2020 Bishop's letter was issued on 13 December 2020 entitled 'Coronavirus Infectious Diseases and Our Church 'Response under the State of Emergency' announcement issued 13 January, 2021 'Response to New Coronavirus Infections No.4' distributed 13 April, 2021 Announcement of 'Resumption of the Eucharist in two kinds' issued 24 October, 2021 E-mail and web conferencing are recommended for meetings, events, etc. Diocesan Center will be open Monday to Friday 9:30 to 16:30.
Kyoto	At each church's discretion whether to offer communal worship	State of Emergency has been lifted, but preventative measures will continue to be taken Each church will decide which communal worship will be offered	Inform congregations about thorough health management and hygiene protocols Regularly share the situation at each church Some events and meetings are cancelled or postponed; the use of online meeting platforms is encouraged Diocesan office will return to normal work hours (9:00 am to 5:00 pm) from April
Osaka	Resumption of communal worship	In general, each church decides for themselves whether offer communal worship In some situations this will be carried out remotely, or streamed	Updated diocesan policy issued in the Bishop's message dated 24 March All possible precautions to be taken to prevent infection - including wearing masks, disinfecting hands, measuring temperature, adequate ventilation, avoiding loud singing, and physical distancing All to refrain from eating and drinking after meetings Diocesan office staff continue to work in shifts, but business hours return to normal: weekdays 10:30 to 18:30
Kobe	Resumption of communal worship or request to self-refrain	Following diocesan guidelines, each church council decides whether to offer or suspend public worship Communal worship offered is either Holy Eucharist (communion in one kind) or a Service of the Word	Standards for refraining from church activities issued on 5 November 2020 Revised guidelines for refraining from/resumption of public worship issued on May 31, 2020 Bishop's guidelines No.11 issued on 21 January, 2022 covering 'Thorough enforcement of standards for refraining from church activities' 'What to do if a church member or a family member living in the same household falls under the category of a person with whom there is a strong contact' added to guidelines 27 January, 2022 Diocesan Office working hours are shortened until further notice (10:00-16:00)
Kyushu	Partial suspension of communal worship	Attendance at Sunday worship is not recommended for those who are vulnerable or use public transport	Inform congregations about thorough health management and hygiene protocols (about protecting oneself, and not spreading infection) Kikuchi Reimei Church continues to suspended meeting for worship
Okinawa	Resumption of communal worship	Following the lifting of Primary Preventative Measures, the offering of communal worship will be at the discretion of individual churches	Clergy gatherings and committee meetings can be held in person or online

Provincial Office

From 6 January until further notice, Provincial Office hours will be shortened to: Monday-Friday, 10:00-16:30