

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

As at 22 June 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 While continuing to implement precautionary measures, it is recommended that church activities, especially worship services, be expanded gradually to the fullest extent possible Any congregant with concerns about attending public worship is invited to worship at home	Thorough health management/hygiene protocols are in place - especially for infection control and adequate ventilation, and will be rigorously enforced Each church's individual judgments are to be respected regarding suspension, after consultation with the bishop Events and meetings are to take place with sufficient precautionary measures taken, although currently events with food are to be refrained from Clergy will consider those congregants who wish to worship at home Episcopal visits will be carried out as scheduled (although may be cancelled or postponed depending on changes in infection status)
Tohoku	In general public worship is offered, but at each church's discretion	Adequate precautionary measures continue to be taken These measures are to be reconfirmed at each church Funerals can also take place with sufficient precautions taken All are requested to continue to maintain vigilance (following guidelines #8-2) In cases when worship is to be suspended, consultation to be made with the Bishop Communion in one kind to be considered depending upon the situation Necessary precautions to be taken to prevent infection when holding meetings	Guidelines for Sunday Worship and Diocesan Activities' issued on 2021/11/18 (supplement #8-3 dated 2021/2/3 => reverted to No. #8-2 dated 2021/11/18). 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 Masks to be worn and adequate ventilation ensured. 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 Scheduled meetings should be conducted by e-mail and web conferencing as much as possible
Kita-Kanto	Resumption or suspension of communal worship	In discussion together, each church will decide appropriate measures to take according to the local situation Funerals held with sufficient preventative measures taken	Necessary gatherings can be held with adequate infection control measures in place Churches and chapels offering public worship are to ensure adequate precautionary measures are taken, especially where other facilities are attached to the church Any in doubt regarding these issues will consult with the diocesan bishop Necessary meetings may be conducted with sufficient precautionary measures taken
Tokyo	Resumption or suspension of communal worship	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. Some churches and chapels will therefore suspend public worship	Meetings and gatherings other than worship can only be held when vital (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 will operate at shortened hours (10:00-16:30) until further notice
Yokohama	Resumption of communal worship	Updated Worship Guidelines issued (June 2022) These guidelines concern adherence to the "Guide for Church's Response to Outbreaks of New Coronavirus Infections"	Diocesan Office operates regular hours (10:00 - 17:00) "Worship Service Guidelines" (June edition) encourages use of 'Communion in two kinds' and instructs in 'How to hold worship services', etc. Congregants are asked to refrain from attending worship at churches other than their own, or across diocesan boundaries In response to the spread of the virus, each church or region will suspend public worship services depending on the prevailing situation

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 suspend public worship Resumption of hymn-singing or distribution of Communion in two kinds is to be carried out after reporting to the bishop	"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 9:00 to 17:00.
Kyoto	Each church's discretion whether to offer worship	State of Emergency has been lifted, but preventative measures will continue to be taken Each church will decide how to offer communal worship	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 has returned to regular hours (9:00 am to 5:00 pm) from April
Osaka	Resumption of communal worship	Each church's decision is to be respected due to differing circumstances In some situations this will be carried out remotely	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	Worship services have resumed in accordance with the Diocesan standards of Voluntary Restraint (revised 4/4)	"Actions if a clergy or family member living together is classed as a close contact" (added to the Diocesan Guidelines) Revision of "Criteria for Voluntary Refraining from Church Activities" issued on 4/4/2022 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	Adequate precautionary measures to continue to be taken (wearing masks, disinfecting hands, ventilation, ensuring space between seats, etc.) Congregants not to attend worship if ill or person of close contact Each church will decide whether or not to offer Communion (in one or two kinds), sing hymns, etc.	Clergy gatherings and committee meetings can be held in person or online Meetings with food and drink, or post-service refreshments, etc. are to be determined by each church

Provincial Office

From 4 April Provincial Office hours will be: Monday-Friday, 10:00-17:30