

BETH SHALOM'S OPERATIONS UNDER THE GOVERNMENT'S COVID-19 PROTECTION FRAMEWORK AT RED AND ORANGE (“TRAFFIC LIGHT SYSTEM”)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. We are guided by the principles of *pikuach nefesh* – that saving a life comes above all else - and *kol yisrael arevim zeh ba-zeh* – we are all responsible for each other.
2. Beth Shalom will follow all government regulations in response to Covid-19. The current policy is based on the Covid-19 Protection Framework: Guidelines for places of worship (26/11/2021). This describes the requirements for us to hold gatherings, events and services under all settings: **Red**, **Orange**, and **Green**.
3. The current policy was approved at the Board meeting on 15/12/2021 and will be reviewed monthly.

VACCINATION REQUIREMENT AT **RED** AND **ORANGE** AND OUR COMMITMENT TO ALL MEMBERS

4. Beth Shalom will require all people who are eligible for vaccination to be fully vaccinated and show their Vaccine Pass to come on-site (indoors *and* outdoors). This includes staff, volunteers, members, and other visitors.
5. If you are over the age of 12 and do not have a valid vaccine pass, please contact the office in advance. We will be unable to deal with special cases on the day of a gathering or service
6. We understand that some members of our community will choose not to vaccinate or choose not to participate in person for other reasons. We are committed to including all members in our services. For that purpose, the majority of regular Shabbat services will be hybrid: both in-person and online (via OneRoom until we set up Zoom for more interactive services). We will still hold some Shabbat services online only to relieve the pressure on our volunteers, as in-person services require more work to run and some people may not be ready to return to in-person services yet.

FACE COVERINGS AND PHYSICAL DISTANCING AT **RED** AND **ORANGE**

7. Indoors: **face coverings are required** for all those aged 12 and up, except when eating, performing certain roles during a service, or if you have a medical exemption.
8. Outdoors: **face coverings are not required**, but are still encouraged.
9. We encourage everyone to maintain physical distancing of 1 metre where possible.
10. At **Red**, there is a **limit of 50 attendees** for indoor and outdoor gatherings and services, and therefore registration for events will be required.

11. At **Orange**, there is **no limit** to the number of people who can attend a gathering or service.
12. At least throughout December and January, gatherings may only go ahead provided a Board member or delegate is able to verify the vaccine passes of all those attending.

REGISTRATION FOR GATHERINGS AND SERVICES AT **RED**

13. We must ask attendees to pre-register for indoor and outdoor gatherings and services at Red to ensure we do not surpass our limit of 50 attendees for inside or outside gatherings and services.
14. You can register by emailing office@bethshalom.org.nz or phoning the office during working hours at (09) 524 4139.
15. Please provide Christine with the following information:
 - a. The gathering you are registering for;
 - b. Names of people attending with you;
 - c. Proof of vaccination status for every registered person.

WHAT TO DO WHEN ATTENDING GATHERINGS AND SERVICES AT **RED** AND **ORANGE**

16. When you arrive at Beth Shalom:
 - a. **Mask:** wear a face covering. You will be advised on whether you have a role in the service that allows you to temporarily remove your face covering.
 - b. **Scan or sign:** use the Covid tracer app or our manual sign-in slips to register your attendance for contact tracing purposes.
 - c. **Pass:** show your Vaccine Pass and possibly I.D.
 - d. **Distance:** maintain physical distancing of 1 metre where possible.
17. A Board member or delegate will guide you through this short process when you arrive. While it should not take long, you may wish to arrive a few minutes earlier to gatherings and services than you usually would to allow time for this process.
18. Please understand that if you do not show a valid vaccine pass, you will not be able to remain onsite. You also may not enter the building without a face covering unless you have a medical exemption.
19. If you are sick, unwell, or have even mild symptoms, please join us online.

SERVICES AT **RED** AND **ORANGE**

20. We encourage people to keep 1 metre between themselves and other households when finding seats. Some rows will be sectioned off to allow one row of space between each occupied row.
21. We will have one service leader at any one service unless leaders are from the same household.

22. We encourage congregants to bow to the Torah instead of touching it.
23. The service leader will undress and dress the Torah.
24. Where possible, only one person may be on the bimah at any time. When people come to the bimah for an Aliyah, they must keep a distance from the Torah reader.
25. Prayers for the congregation, country, and Israel should be read from where people are sitting.
26. We encourage people to bring their own tallit and kippot but will still make some available.

FOOD AND DRINK AT **RED** AND **ORANGE**

27. Food and drink may be consumed at Beth Shalom and you may bring your own food and drink in Beth Shalom's food policy.
28. People may not share cutlery or utensils, therefore food and drink that is being shared should either be provided to people as individual plates/boxes or by servers. This includes food and drink that you bring to share with others.
29. Challah will be sliced and be provided as individual slices during kiddush.

CLEANING AND VENTILATION AT **RED** AND **ORANGE**

30. High touch areas will be wiped down after gatherings.
31. Windows, hall and sanctuary doors, and the sliding doors between the sanctuary and the hall will remain open during indoor gatherings and services.

REFERENCES

Covid-19 Protection Framework: Guidelines for places of worship (26/11/2021)
<https://covid19.govt.nz/assets/COVID-19-Protection-Framework/COVID-19-Protection-Framework-Guidelines-for-places-of-worship.pdf>