**Elwood Shule reopening FAQs (as of 18 Oct 2021)**

*More information to be included below as it becomes available from the Victorian Government.*

**When and how will Shule reopen?**

1. The *Victoria's Roadmap: Delivering the National Plan* allows places of worship to open for up to **20 fully-vaccinated people indoors** once the State reaches **70%** of fully-vaccinated people aged 16+. This is expected to be Thurs night (midnight) 21 Oct.
2. Once the State reaches **80%** of fully vaccinated people aged 16+, expected by Fri 5 Nov, the current directives allow for up to **150 fully vaccinated people indoors**.
3. We intend to begin indoor **weekday** services on Sun **24 Oct** (with 20 people maximum) and **Shabbat** morning Services on **6 Nov** (with 130 people maximum, as per our density quota and cap).

**Do you have to disclose your vaccination status?**

1. Yes, for age 16+ as per the current Victorian Governments requirements for places of worship.
2. We are currently not required to request vaccination proof for 12-16 yr olds.
3. COVID inspectors may visit our premises and check that the Shule has ensured everyone has been double-vaccinated and has either scanned the QR code (for non-Shabbat services/events) or the Shule has an electronic record of pre-registrations (for Shabbat services).

**Can you come to Shule if your child is too young for vaccination or if you have a medical exemption?**

1. Children who are not yet eligible for vaccination can attend fully-vaccinated indoor services. Anyone over 12 months must pre-register for attendance as they count within the 130 cap.
2. Those who have a legitimate medical exemption for one of the listed medical conditions and from one of the authorised categories of medical professionals, will need to provide evidence to the Shule (which we must sight and record) to attend fully-vaccinated indoor services, counting within the 130 cap.

**Do you have to pre-register for services or events?**

1. Yes, on **Shabbat** when the QR code cannot be accessed for Halachic reasons. The Shule security guard will have a printed list of those who have pre-registered and whose vaccination certificates the Shule has seen, as required.
2. We will also require pre-registration for weekday services/events in which we are unsure how many will attend, in order to control the numbers and comply with cap and density quota.
3. To pre-register go to https://www.elwoodshule.org/covid-attendance/. But first, please upload your COVID vaccination certificate by going to https://www.elwoodshule.org/covid-vaccination-registration/. This is a secure portal. Details are confidential and may only be disclosed to a COVID inspector if requested. You only need to do this on the first time, but remember, you must pre-register for each Shabbat service on both Friday night and Shabbat morning, by the Thursday night prior.
4. For **weekday services and activities**, you **must QR code** upon entry. Simply ensure you have linked your vaccination certificate to your Service Victoria app on your phone (https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/get-your-covid-19-vaccine-certificate) and just QR code on arrival. If you do not bring a smartphone, you will need a print-out of your official vaccination certificate (we will record a copy) and register with the COVID marshal.

**How many Shabbat services will be running?**

1. One on Friday nights (6:30pm)
2. One on Shabbat morning, 9:15-11:30am. There *may* be subsequent services dedicated for a simchah, but that will be exclusively for up to 130 of the hosts' guests.

**Will a Kiddush follow Shabbat services?**
This has yet to be determined.

**Is the Shule planning an outdoor service for the non-vaccinated?**
There are no immediate plans to do so.

**What if there is a positive case of COVID in Shule?**
Those in attendance at the time of the outbreak must quarantine, the Shule will be cleaned and will then reopen for congregants, other than those in quarantine.

**For all further queries please contact Jack Lipson on 9531 1547 or email [office@elwoodshule.org](mailto:office@elwoodshule.org).**
We look forward to seeing you soon!