

## Church Services under the Covid Orange Traffic light system ~ Guidelines ~

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*The purpose of these guidelines is to outline the requirements of the church in relation to operating church services under the Covid-19 Orange Traffic light system. These are non-essentials for salvation but are listed for unity and health & safety purposes. We encourage all believers to be compassionate and gracious where there may be different viewpoints, and respectful of the position of the Lakes Church Elders in these times.*

**“In Essentials – Unity, In Non-Essentials – Grace, In All things – Love.”**

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As Elders we believe it is important in these days to continue to meet together for fellowship, encouragement and worship. As we meet to worship God we need to be mindful and considerate of each other. Grace and love is needed.

*Hebrews 10:25 “Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the day approaching.”*

After researching and obtaining extensive feedback from church members, medical professionals, CCCNZ and the government; after prayerful consideration, and after consideration being given to the current status of Covid-19 in the community, there will be **two options for attending church services**. These will be run at the same time with one being via video link to the “in person” service. Vaccinated attendees can choose which service to attend based on their individual circumstances and convictions. Unvaccinated attendees can only attend the Mixed service.

### **Summary:**

1. A mixed “vaxed and non vaxed” service, ensuring the guidelines by the government are followed. No vaccine passport will be required.
2. A “vaxed” only video link service in Room 1. Vaccine passports will be required to be present.

Depending on numbers and how the pandemic pans out, it may be in the future that we will consider alternating the 2 services each Sunday. One will have to be in person and the other by live video link.

## Detailed guidelines:

### Generic guidelines for both services:

- Masks will be made mandatory and will be required from the carpark onwards.
- Scanning or contact details are required.
- If people are unwell they must stay home.
- If people have serious health problems and/or feel compromised, we encourage them to seek advice and recommend they stay at home. However, this is a personal choice and we know some in this position and are very keen to come.
- Hand Sanitiser will be provided and encouraged
- Communion can now be brought in sealed individual packs (juice & wafer) and we are purchasing them.
- We will encourage all our people to take great care in these times.
- We will continue to keep up to date with changes as they happen, on the govt website and CCCNZ.
- Childrens Church will need to operate at the back of church in each room for now with packs made up. Parents, please feel free to sit with your children.
- Creche will be in both rooms, but you cannot mix between the 2 rooms.
- There will be no mixing between the rooms.

### Specific Guidelines for the two different services:

#### 1. Lakes Church Mixed Service (Vaxed and non vaxed) under orange in Room 2 (larger room)

- We are allowed 50 people plus workers and volunteers (currently we have about 12-15 help on any given Sunday).
- Registration will not be required, but we will be counting numbers before entering and if we go over the limit we may ask vaccinated attendees to join the vaccinated only service.
- Entrance will be via the large driveway gate and back door.
- Non contact will be encouraged. Air hugs not touching hugs.
- Capacity for 1m distancing is required. Room 2 has more than sufficient capacity to meet this requirement for 50 attendees and volunteers. (Capacity limits are based on maximum number of people who could occupy the space if each person was 1 metre apart. People do not have to keep 1 metre apart at the venue.)
- Masks **and** Vaccination are mandatory for those preparing & serving on morning tea, communion and welcoming. Masks are mandatory for everyone else.

#### 2. Lakes Church for Vaccine Passport only in Room 1 (available from 23<sup>rd</sup> January)

- Only people with a My Vaccine Pass are allowed to be there. This includes volunteers and workers. Children under the age of 12 years and 3 months do not need to provide a My Vaccine Pass to enter places with a vaccination requirement.
- You will be asked to show your My Vaccine Pass when you are at the venue.
- There is no limit to how many people can be at the venue.

*Note: Option 2 will be available from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to enable time to arrange a screen, speaker and projector setup for the link of the service to enable participation in the service. Communion, Morning tea and fellowship will be available in Room 1. Further details on how this will operate for set up and morning tea over the week, including possible video link interaction between spaces. There will potentially be staggered start times with morning tea prior to the service for the vaccinated service and after the service for the Mixed group.*

As we move forward under the orange, we will be encouraging people to follow these protocols which adhere to the government regulations at present. We believe with all such measures and the status of the country at present, we can safely operate as a church. The threat of Omicron is on our doorstep and the Elders will continue to reassess and if necessary, change the above in order to worship our God, as well as consider the safety of all.

This is an important time for the church to encourage and build one another up and be united for Christ as one body and not be divided by the external rules and the schemes of the world and Satan. Let us remember that Covid is the problem, not people. Please be gracious and kind as we work together to see a better & brighter future where God is honoured and Christ is our example.

*Colossians 3 v12 "Therefore as God's chosen people, wholly and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience ....and overall of these virtues put on love which binds them together in perfect unity."*

If you have any questions on the above, or feel that something has been overlooked, please feel free to contact one of the Elders.