



## COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear Friends,

In light of the spread of the COVID-19 virus in Melbourne, we wish to once again update you on the actions that TBI has and will continue to take to prepare ourselves and our community for the uncertainty that lies ahead.

In doing this, we want to thank our many members and friends who have responded so positively to the enhanced policies and procedures that we have implemented over the last few weeks, following the advice of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Regrettably, these new policies have required us to cancel our New Members' Lunch this coming weekend, our Volunteer Appreciation event in April and the Pesach Sederim (including the Chocolate Seder, Women's Seder and Community Seder).

Moving forward, as we consider the well-being of our vulnerable members as well as our staff, our responsibility is in slowing the spread of the virus through our community. With this in mind, **we have made the difficult decision to shut our building for all religious services, educational programs, and communal events.**



This takes effect from **Wednesday 18 March at 5pm**. Following this, we will transition to an entirely “**virtual**” congregation. We are calling on you, our members and friends, to join us in an unprecedented effort to ensure social distancing while preventing social isolation.

Throughout this difficult period, our Rabbinic team will continue to be available by phoning the office or pastoral care line. Staff and volunteers will also be regularly checking in with you and your family as we seek to support each other.

As Gersh taught on Purim, our goal is to “isolate ourselves from this virus but not from humanity” so please take a moment to think about those around you who might be particularly concerned at this time and could benefit from your support and care.

Your continued health remains our priority and if you have any concerns, please phone a medical professional. We will continue to update you and follow recommendations from government health departments and medical experts.

Warm regards

Rebecca Silk  
President

## Here is what being a “virtual” congregation means for us at TBI:



**We will launch a Virtual Synagogue meaning that while our services will be closed, they will be live-streamed and available through our [website](#) and our [YouTube channel](#)**

- To support our younger families we will be increasing the frequency of our **Bubs & Bagels** program to include sessions on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays at 10.30am
- **Netzer** will be leading a service for school-age children at 10am on Tuesdays & Thursdays.
- In an effort to remain connected, we will be commencing a **Daily Minyan** beginning at 6.15pm on Sundays through to Thursdays.
- Our **Kabbalat Shabbat** & **Shacharit Shabbat** services will be as normal at 6.15pm on Fridays and 10am on Saturdays.
- Lifecycle events such as **brit milah, b'nei mitzvah, weddings** and **funerals** will continue in person for immediate family. Minyanim that are held in our sanctuary will be live-streamed.
- All other services (including **Pop-Up, Geshet, Hineinu and Sprout**) will be suspended.



**While our classrooms will be closed, learning will continue in our Virtual Classroom on [Google Meet](#) with enrolment available through our [website](#)**

- All scheduled classes including **TBI Tamid & Melton** will continue as scheduled and move to a virtual classroom.
- All **B'nei Mitzvah** classes (both individual tutorials and binah group sessions) will continue as scheduled and move to the virtual classroom.
- Appreciating the risk of social isolation, Rabbi Lazarow will be hosting a virtual “**Lunch and Learn**” on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays at 12pm where he will be in conversation with interesting personalities from across the Jewish world.
- Similarly, on Tuesdays & Thursdays Cantor Laloum will be hosting a virtual “**Choir Rehearsal**” together with Ido, where they will teach new music and songs.



**Our building will be closed but our Virtual Community will never shut down.**

- While we will be suspending our clubs and groups, we have made provision to continue our **Nourish** food program and are grateful to the volunteers who will be making take-away food available to the homeless and hungry.
- We will also be expanding our **Take them a Meal** program to include the delivery of cooked meals, groceries and staples to our ill, aged and isolated members. If you are able to assist with this program please call Rhonda in our office.
- All other committee meetings and activities will continue as scheduled but will move to a digital platform.