

28 October 2021

WELCOME BACK TO LIBRARIES AND COUNCIL HUBS

With COVID-19 restrictions easing from 6pm on Friday 29 October as part of the Victorian Government's Roadmap for reopening, Council is looking forward to seeing more faces back in our Hepburn Libraries and Council buildings.

In line with the roadmap requirements, anyone aged 16 years and over will need to be fully vaccinated to be allowed to enter Council facilities, including our libraries, hubs, Visitor Information Centres and buildings.

Chief Executive Officer Bradley Thomas said patrons will need to show staff that they have checked in to the venue and will need to provide proof of full vaccination or a valid exemption.

"Just as you have to show proof of vaccination at cafes and restaurants, you'll have to show these details when visiting Council buildings from this weekend," said Mr Thomas.

"This can be either through the ServiceVic app or a printed vaccination certificate and ID," he said.

Mr Thomas said the health and safety of staff and the community are the highest priority.

"While this is a change to how we operate, I know our staff appreciate the patience and consideration of patrons," he said.

"Our teams are excited to welcome back more people to our facilities as we adapt to living with COVID."

"We are hopeful these changes won't impact on opening hours, but please bear with us as we navigate these changes in operations.

"More than 95% of our community over 15 years have had their first jab, with the latest data showing that more than 81% are fully vaccinated. This number will continue to increase, which is great news for the protection of our Shire," said Mr Thomas.

Under the Victorian Government directives patrons aged 16 years and over will need to be fully vaccinated to access the following Council facilities:

- Customer Service hubs
- Libraries
- Visitor Information Centres
- Community facilities, including halls and venues
- Public swimming pools.

Density limits will apply.

Please note that all community members can access the following services and facilities regardless of their vaccination status:

- Early education and childcare
- Maternal and child health
- Aged and disability services
- Transfer stations
- Public open spaces, such as parks, playgrounds, skate parks and BBQ facilities.

For more information on the Victorian Government requirements visit

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/node/18728/#more-resources>.

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