



January 24, 2022

Dear Ohr Kodesh Community,

Over the last nearly two years, we have always prioritized the core Jewish principles from Deuteronomy 4:9, “*Hishamer l'cha u'shmer nafshecha meod*—to guard yourself and guard your life very much.” The great scholar and physician, Maimonides, taught that this verse reminds us to take care of ourselves not only spiritually, but physically, too. Similarly, in his Commentary on *Mishnah Nedarim* 4:4, he teaches that not only is it a *mitzvah* to receive life-saving medicines, we are obligated to do so (inspired by Deuteronomy 22:2).

Guided by our tradition, we are pleased to launch a vaccine mandate in the interest of public health to keep our community safe and, hopefully, encourage participation in more in-person prayer services and activities.

Therefore, starting February 1, 2022, with a two-week grace period for full compliance, Ohr Kodesh will require Proof of Vaccination or Proof of Medical Exemption for everyone who wishes to enter our building. Entry will be limited to those eligible individuals (age five and older) who are fully vaccinated and to those who have had a booster shot (age 12 and older) (see Q&A link for definition) or who have a documented Medical Exemption. Those age four and under are welcome to attend and are not part of this vaccination mandate until they reach the age of eligibility.

1. OKC VaxPass

Website Registration:

Effective today, you can click [here](#), log in, and upload your vaccination record to our website. Our team will review your information, register you for a card, delete the image from our website, and then mail you an OKC VaxPass. Those who have a Medical Exemption letter (see below) *must* have an OKC VaxPass to enter the building.

In-Person Registration:

Alternatively, please come to Ohr Kodesh on Sunday, January 30 or Sunday, February 6 between 9AM and noon, or to the Ohr Kodesh office during regular weekday business hours of 8AM to 5PM, to show evidence of vaccination to receive an OKC VaxPass.

2. CDC Card

The most efficient way to participate is by uploading proof of vaccination on our website to receive an **OKC VaxPass**. That said, you can always bring proof of vaccination, a CDC Card or copy, and have it confirmed by a security guard, staff member, or volunteer before entering.

3. Medical Exemptions

For those with Medical Exemption letters, we require 48 hours to review and approve copies of your letters in order to issue an OKC VaxPass, your only means of entry. To start this process, please click [here](#) to use the website form, or come to Ohr Kodesh on Sunday, January 30 or February 6 between 9AM and noon, or to the Ohr Kodesh office during regular weekday business hours of 8AM to 5PM, to show your Medical Exemption letter. It will take up to 48 hours for us to confirm your exemption. Upon completion of the process, copies of the letters will be destroyed. **Unfortunately, we will not be able to review Medical Exemption letters for 'day of entry' access. You must have an OKC VaxPass for building access.**

For additional information, visit the **Vaccine Mandate Question & Answer** page (click [here](#)) and the **Safety Procedures During COVID-19** page (click [here](#)) on our website.

The pandemic is a complex and evolving situation. We will continue to revisit ways to navigate it and also make sure that the vaccine mandate is responsive to the changing landscape. Please contact Ohr Kodesh at vaccines@ohrkodesh.org if you have any questions, concerns, or feedback.

The Ohr Kodesh community greatly appreciates the work of the Vaccine Implementation Task Force ably led by Vice-Presidents Dan Grunberger and Liz Wagger, with the support of Board Members Marc Cohen, Dena Feldman, Richard Friedman, and Executive Director, Jerry Kiewe. Thank you for your diligence and hard work to implement our mandate.

May our collective efforts bring us one step closer toward safety, good health, and coming back together.

Thank you in advance for your flexibility, patience, and partnership.

Rise Ain, President
Rabbi Corey Helfand
Cantor Hinda Eisen Labovitz
Jerry Kiewe, Executive Director