

Turning Teardrops into Joy and Bellarossini Coffee Carts —Statement on Non-Discrimination—

Foundational principle

One of the primary goals, and the driving passion, behind all the work we do is to create safe spaces in which all people have the opportunity to flourish. The flourishing of each one is only possible in the context of flourishing for all. One practical consequence of that goal is our refusal to disadvantage anyone by treating them as though they had less dignity or value than anyone else. That applies regardless of people's cultural background, sexuality, or religious beliefs, but also whether they are scared, obnoxious, misogynist, a flat-earther, convicted felon, anti-vaxxer, or leper.

**We will not
discriminate based on
whether someone has
been vaccinated or not.**

Applied to COVID safety

In the context of the current COVID pandemic, we encourage our community to make choices that are safe for themselves as well as for others. That includes protecting yourself and the people around you from exposure to COVID infection.

- We encourage everyone (apart from those with medical reasons that make it unsafe) to be vaccinated against COVID-19. We remain concerned that the current vaccines have not been adequately tested, but nevertheless believe that they are the best means available today to make the whole of society safer.
- We agree with government strategies to reduce the spread of COVID-19 via temporary stay-at-home restrictions.
- We require everyone who comes into our retail space to wear a face mask.
- We require everyone who comes into our retail space to check-in using the government prescribed process.
- We require that while in our space you actively try to keep the space safe for our staff and customers, both physically and psychologically.

No discrimination on the basis of vaccination status

On the other hand, we are concerned about an escalating regime of fear whose outcome is the ostracism of people who have not been vaccinated. Part of caring for each other is the respect for each others' choices and we will not discriminate based on whether someone has been vaccinated or not. Neither our staff, nor delivery people, nor customers are required to be vaccinated or to declare their vaccination status.

We will not treat people as social outcasts and are personally withdrawing from any activity where COVID vaccination is a requirement.

Fear and coercion are not effective strategies for social change: they inevitably cause anger, division, and scapegoating. Shalom—which is wholeness, peace, healthy relationships, and justice—depends on respect rather than shame.

... and lastly

We will go beyond the fear-based isolation of self-protection to actively care for everyone in our community. We want you to be well in body, mind, and soul. May our coffee and our conversation nourish you.

We invite you to embrace this same attitude by speaking and acting graciously towards each other: that is, with gentleness, compassion, kindness, and patience. We encourage unvaxed people to respect the concerns of the vaxed and not put them at risk. We encourage vaxed people to respect the concerns of the unvaxed and not put them at risk.

— Bella & Matt —

