



COVID Management Plan

COVID-19 Calvary Christian College Emergency Response Plan current at 20 January 2022

Background:

1. The World Health Organisation has declared COVID-19 a pandemic.
2. Queensland Health and the Australian Department of Health are working to manage and contain the impact of this virus for Australians and Queenslanders alike. The College follows the regular updates from Queensland Health <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19> as new information emerges.
3. The Department of Education continues to work closely with Queensland Health to monitor the situation and identify and manage any impacts on schools.
4. The Principal and CEO receives updates regularly from the Queensland Health, Queensland Education Department, and Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ) . These are noted as they are received, and our response adapted where necessary.

Managing risk:

5. Currently Government strategy is to rely on vaccination to limit the severity of the disease and keep hospitalisations at manageable levels. The goal of achieving 80% vaccination rate to avoid future lockdowns and open borders has been achieved and now the focus is on keeping as much as possible open and functional in an effort to balance public health and safety with economic growth and recovery. The Queensland Public Health Directive of 11 December 2021 identifies schools as high-risk environments and requires that all staff are vaccinated.
 6. The OMICRON variant is highly transmissible, and efforts are focused on managing the impact of its rapid transmission in the community. The National Framework for Managing COVID-19 in Schools and Early Childhood Education and Care facilities reveals government intention to keep schools and ECEC open.
 7. Children can not only spread the OMICRON variant but are at risk of contracting it too. This variant appears to pose low risk to younger people. During periods when schools remain open only for children of essential workers all students Year 7 up wear masks as do all staff while teaching. Masks may only be removed for eating and drinking and when a staff member is seated at their workstation and socially distanced from others. We have a small number of our community who may be at higher risk owing to a range of factors. This means that monitoring health and responding promptly by isolating any person with symptoms of colds or flu is the best strategy to ensure staff and student safety. During any period when schools may be 'closed' staff numbers onsite are limited. Grounds staff are on site. The College operates with the smallest skeleton staff possible.
 8. There are signs at College entrances reminding adults to maintain social distancing. Pick up is in dispersed zones to help with this.
 9. College staff are monitoring potential mental health issues for staff and students.
- 10. College cleaning and daily hygiene practices:**
- a. We are following Health Department advice
 - i. encouraging College community members (students, staff, parents/carers and visitors to the College) to make use of soap and water handwashing rather than hand sanitisers and both are available in the College.
 - ii. our cleaners clean with disposable cloths.



- iii. Classrooms have been provided with cleaning materials to wipe down high usage areas regularly (after breaks).
- iv. The College has secured stocks of soap, paper towels, and hand sanitiser.

11. Social distancing:

- a. We appreciate the challenges we face achieving social distancing across the College. We are taking this seriously and educating our students on appropriate behaviours. This is obviously more successful with older students. Staff are exercising professional discretion where young children seek physical touch or comfort.

12. Event Cancellation/Postponement:

- a. As we are directed, and as good sense suggests, we cancel or postpone events.

Proposed action:

In the event of a mandated lockdown or school closure

- 13. The College moves to a 'learning from home' model. This began for us on 26 March 2020 and the model was in place for the first four weeks of Term 2 2020, with a staggered return as prescribed by Education Queensland and Health Department. Once again, the College moved to 'learning from home' during the brief August 2021 lockdown. The start of the school year 2022 was delayed by a fortnight by the Queensland Premier and Calvary responded by choosing to provide Learning from Home for all students from 27 January 2022 until 4 February 2022 with the children of essential workers supervised onsite. The College has limited numbers of staff on site during this period.
- 14. The Chair of College Council is informed of each mandated lockdown or school closure.
 - a. The details of the 'learning from home' model are available in the documents prepared by Heads of School and provided to parents/carers for each lockdown or closure impacting the school term.
 - b. In the January 2022 along with the National Framework provided by national cabinet we received a document defining the category of workers regarded as essential workers.

College closure

- 15. If a case is identified in our College, the Non-state Schools Accreditation Board, Independent Schools Queensland, and Queensland Health will work closely with us in managing our response and our actions will be taken with community health at the centre of our decision making.
- 16. If there is a confirmed case at our College, it is possible our College will need to close for a period to allow Queensland Health to assess the situation and to perform contact tracing as required to identify people and students who may have come in contact with the COVID-19 case. It is essential that all visitors to the College sign in using the Queensland Health App as well as the College sign in App at Reception.
- 17. We work with Queensland Health and other relevant authorities to conduct any specialised cleaning of our facilities as required to ensure our College is safe for students and staff to return when clearance is given. College closures are unlikely but our community will be notified when there is an identified case on campus.

Learning continuity

- 18. Continuity of learning is extremely important to us.
 - a. If a closure of the College is mandated, teachers will continue to operate as much as possible according to the College timetable, and be accessible to students during



their lesson times, through the use of Office 365 and Teams in MSS. Students (unaffected by illness) will be required to submit work (and assignment tasks) as usual. Obviously, some practical components of subjects will not be available.

- b. Any Senior exams that are missed will be postponed and any MS exams that are missed will be postponed or cancelled. The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) also has procedures in place to support senior secondary students and any necessary adjustments will be managed by them as part of their usual procedures.
- c. Junior school classes will operate differently, and separate detailed information is distributed to parents/carers if a closure is necessary. At this point we expect that some learning materials will be sent home or emailed home and parents/carers will be asked to encourage their children to complete the learning activities. Teachers will be available through email.

Travel:

19. Personal travel:
 - a. Personal travel has been limited by Government.
20. Travel related to College business:
 - a. As part of our regular College program, we have several planned trips for students within Australia.
 - b. Decisions about these trips have followed government directive. Our priority is always to support Queensland Health policies, the safety of our community and considers the impact our actions might have on our broader community.

Community Communications:

21. Communications with staff:
 - a. To date staff have received the communications sent to parents/carers. Usually they receive them prior to parents/carers.
 - b. If the College is closed, we can communicate with staff through email or through Teams and this includes the capacity for videoconferencing.
22. Communication with parents and carers:
 - a. Background communication:
 - i. The Principal is committed to providing communications to the community without delay. In August the lockdown notification came in at 10:00am on a Saturday and by midday the first parent communications were sent.
 - ii. Updates follow as soon as information reaches us and impacts our response plan.
 - b. In the event of closure:
 - i. College Council Chair will be informed via phone call or email and will manage information to other Council members.
 - ii. Parents/Carers would be informed of closure and ongoing status updates via the regular email communications (Principal and CEO communications process). The College can also communicate with parents/carers via SMS and email.
 - iii. Staff would be informed and updated via Principal communications process, email, Teams or face to face meeting as appropriate to context.