

Covid-19 Update August 10, 2020



Dear Calrossy Community,

It is good to be into the routine of Term 3, with school as close to normal as possible. I am encouraged that there have been no recent active Covid-19 cases in Tamworth and our region has remained virus-free for four months. However, I am very conscious that a recent 'spike' of cases in Victoria and in some spots in NSW has created some uncertainty. I remain adamant that we should not become complacent so continue to adhere to medical advice and health regulations.

The following advice may be helpful to parents in understanding our school response to health regulations and the measures we are taking to protect our community:

- Students must not share food and should wash their hands prior to eating
- Students are required to cough on sleeves, wash hands regularly and keep fingers away from the face and mouth. Use hand sanitiser when required
- Advice to parents remains the same: If your children are showing any symptoms of cold or flu, they must stay home. A Covid-19 test is advised. (Phone the Respiratory Clinic - 02-6768-3288)
You can access the Calrossy Guide to Covid and Testing on the HUB on the Covid-19 Tile.
- If your child takes a Covid Test, please advise the school once the result is received. (Health Centre – 02- 5776-5190)
- Following a negative Covid Test, should your children still be sick, please keep them home? In winter many students have the flu so we must minimise the spread of germs.
- If your children display cold or flu symptoms at school, they will be required to go home, following a check in our health centre
- It is not essential for students to use PPE or masks at school even though our health staff are doing so

Please note that we have discontinued school-wide temperature checking as prior cases of students and staff being sent to the Respiratory testing for Covid-19 were identified by health checks or symptoms, rather than by temperature. Should there be concerns, a temperature check is possible upon request but mass screening has not been demonstrated as effective in identifying Covid-19.

Should Calrossy have a case of Covid-19, we have a good plan that involves collection, contact tracing and deep cleaning. I am hopeful we will not have to activate this plan, but it remains in place. We are mindful of the more complex context for boarders who display symptoms, needing to be collected by parents/guardians, with the disruption of travelling a long distance to do so. Sadly, this is an unavoidable requirement and the support of parents has been greatly appreciated.

Whilst it may be inconvenient and disruptive to keep students (both day students and boarders) at home for minor cold and flu symptoms, I value the support of the school community in doing so. A short period away from lessons in order to protect the safety of the community is preferable to becoming complacent or impacting on the whole school. Please contact the relevant Calrossy staff to assist in keeping your absent child up to date with schoolwork, as we don't want this reality to drive students coming to school when they should be home.

I am aware that the current period has been challenging for families and students, impacting on the wellbeing of some due to the restrictions and associated uncertainty and anxiety. If you hold concerns for the wellbeing of your child, don't hesitate to contact a teacher or the primary carer at Calrossy. We are all in this together.

Should you require more information about the Calrossy approach to Covid-19 please contact our Health Centres or our Head Nurse Mrs Katya Thomas via health.centre@calrossy.nsw.edu.au or phone 5776 5190.

Kind Regards

David Smith, Principal of Calrossy