



# Alvord Independent School District

## Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services (RIPICS) Plan 2023-2024

*August 14, 2023 – This document summarizes the extent to which Alvord ISD has implemented CDC Safety Recommendations. Protocols are subject to change pending guidance from the TEA or the Governor's Office.*

**Mitigation/Prevention/Screening Protocols** – This document contains information on practices that will minimize the likelihood of viral spread and reduce the risk to students, teachers, staff, and their families.

**Staff Expectations for Screening** – Staff shall self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before reporting to work each day. All staff must report to the school system if they have COVID-19 symptoms or are test-confirmed.

**Student and Parent Expectations for Screening** – Parents/guardians shall screen students for COVID-19 symptoms each day before sending students to school. Parents shall not send a child to school if they have COVID-19 symptoms or are test-confirmed.

### **COVID-19 Symptoms:**

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or aches
- Diarrhea, nausea, or vomiting

**Masks** – Per GA-36, school systems cannot require students or staff to wear a mask. School systems must allow individuals to wear a mask if they choose to do so. If parents or guardians choose, students may wear face coverings. Staff also have the option to wear face coverings at their discretion.

**Sanitizing/Disinfecting Facilities** – hand sanitizer will be available at all entrances, in classrooms, in the cafeteria, on buses, and in common areas. Staff will have access to disinfectant spray to sanitize high-

touch working surfaces and shared objects regularly.

**Daily Cleaning Procedures** – all common areas and high-touch areas will be disinfected daily. The cafeteria will be disinfected after breakfast, break, and all lunch periods. Staff will have access to disinfectant spray to sanitize working surfaces and instructional materials regularly.

**Handwashing and respiratory etiquette** – Staff will review proper handwashing and general hygiene practices with students during the first few weeks of school (i.e., washing hands for at least 20 seconds and coughing into your elbow.)

**Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine** – Upon receiving information that any teacher, staff member, student, or visitor at a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the District must report cases via an online form.

**Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities** – Alvord ISD shared information about testing and vaccination opportunities via the Texas Public Health campaign and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS.)

**Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities concerning health and safety policies** – individual student needs are addressed on a case-by-case basis with campus administration and staff to ensure that students with disabilities continue to receive a free and appropriate education and any accommodations identified in a student's IEP.

**Coordination with State and local health officials** – the District considers guidance from local and state officials, including the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Centers for Disease Control and Protection (CDC), Texas Education Agency, and any executive orders or directives from Governor Greg Abbott.

**Continuity of Services to Address Students' Academic Needs and Students' and Staff Social, Emotional, and Mental Health** – students have been back to school for in-person learning since the 2020-2021 school year, as we believe this to be the best setting to meet students' needs. Instructional positions at the Elementary have been restructured to address learning loss among students by providing small group instruction, acceleration, and intervention using evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students. Summer school is also provided each year.

The counselor at Alvord Elementary School provides large group guidance lessons in the classroom. The lessons are preventative in nature, designed to reach all students, and are taught in the classroom regularly. The counselor also provides small group instruction and individual counseling as appropriate, in addition to regularly collaborating with teachers and staff and consulting with parents. The counselor can coordinate referrals to community agencies including local mental health agencies and other social service providers.

Alvord ISD school nurses are also available to consult with students, parents, and staff, and as appropriate, refer families to local mental health agencies and other social service providers. In addition, Alvord ISD is a member district of Wise County Project Hope, a COVID-19 mental health action team of mental health professionals from all communities serving Wise County school districts. The district website has a page listing various resources such as numbers to hotlines and links for the Texas Health & Human Services website to promote the mental health and well-being of youth and adults.