



Alvord Independent School District

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services (RIPICS) Plan 2021-2022

August 16, 2021 – This document summarizes the extent to which Alvord ISD has implemented CDC Safety Recommendations and includes the recent COVID-19 guidance we have received from the Texas Education Agency (TEA). These protocols could change if we receive additional guidance from the TEA or the Governor's Office.

Mitigation/Prevention/Screening Protocols – The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages. Our job is to provide our best efforts to maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school staff. 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 ache
- Diarrhea, nausea, or vomiting

Masks – Per GA-36, school systems cannot require students or staff to wear a mask. GA-36 addresses government-mandated face coverings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. 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. Students will be required to wear face masks if mandated by local, state, or federal authorities to fit the designated criteria.

Staff will have the option of wearing face coverings during the school day or school-sponsored events and activities at their discretion. All staff shall wear face masks if mandated by local, state, or federal authorities.

Sanitizing/Disinfecting Facilities – alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be available at all entrances, in classrooms, in the cafeteria, on buses, and in common areas. Staff shall wash or sanitize their hands regularly. Staff will have access to disinfectant spray to sanitize high-touch working surfaces and shared objects regularly.

Daily Cleaning Procedures – students will also be encouraged to clean their own spaces before and after using them when safe and developmentally appropriate. All common areas will be disinfected daily with commercial-grade systems. All 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 – Alvord ISD will review proper handwashing and general hygiene practices with students and staff during the first several 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 – if an individual who has been in a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the District must notify the local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). 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 shares 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 – the school nurse and counselors at each campus are available to consult with students and parents 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.

Food Services – all students have the opportunity to eat breakfast and lunch free of charge daily. The District sends direct communication to parents and families to promote the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer application windows. P-EBT is a food benefit for families with children who temporarily lost access to free or reduced-price meals at school.

PLEASE NOTE: The details in this document may be revised or adapted depending on the level of viral transmission in the school and/or community and based on requirements from:

