



Slidell Independent School District

Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (RIPICS) Plan 2023-2024

The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages, and it is our job to provide our best efforts in keeping our students, staff, and community safe. While it is impossible to eliminate the risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests steps schools can take to reduce the risk to students, teachers, staff, and their families significantly. This guidance document contains information on practices that will minimize the likelihood of viral spread.

Mitigation/Prevention/Screening Protocols

Staff Expectations

Staff will self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to reporting to work each day. All staff must report to the school system if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or are test-confirmed. Slidell I.S.D. staff will have the option of wearing face coverings during the school day or during school sponsored events and activities at their discretion. All staff will be required to wear face masks if mandated by local, state, or federal authorities.

Student Expectations

Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their student to school and ensure they do not send a child to school if they have COVID-19 symptoms or is test-confirmed. If parents/guardians choose, students may wear face coverings. Students will be required to wear face masks if mandated by local, state, or federal authorities if they fit the designated criteria.

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.

On-Campus Cleaning Expectations

Integrated Viral Protection (IVP)

The use of the IVP technology provides powerful circulation with high performance, safety controls eliminating risk for airborne and Ni particulate (HEPA, MERV-13, carbon filtration, graphite coating and UVC light) and is proven to destroy COVID-19. The units will be disbursed throughout the district using scientific formulas and research to determine high-traffic area on campus. The s1 systems are designed to provide cleaner air and safer schools. The s1 has a throughput of 1,800 cubic feet per minute, circulating the air in a classroom ten times per hour, exceeding the ASHRAE standards for re-opening schools.

Sanitizing/Disinfecting

- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be available at all entrances to the campus, in classrooms, in the cafeteria, on buses, and in common areas throughout the campus.
- Staff will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize their hands.
- Staff will have access to disinfectant wipes to sanitize high-touch, working surfaces and shared objects regularly.
- Staff will limit the use of shared supplies when possible. All students will maintain possession of their own school supplies (i.e. no “community” supplies).
- Electrostatic spray machines will be used daily on both campuses and all buses when returning from assigned routes.

Daily Cleaning Procedures

- Students will also be encouraged to clean their own spaces before and after they are used when safe and developmentally appropriate.
- Each classroom and all restrooms will be disinfected daily using 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 wipes to sanitize working surfaces and instructional materials regularly.

Instruction, Practices, and Procedures

Breakfast/Lunch

- Hand sanitizer stations will be available at the entrances and exits of the cafeteria.
- Meals will be served using disposable food service items when appropriate.

Libraries, Computer Labs, Gymnasiums, and Other Common Areas

- Common areas will be sanitized daily.
- Procedures will be implemented in locker rooms to maintain social distancing.
- Equipment will be disinfected after each use.

Restrooms

- Proper handwashing technique will be taught to all students and consistently reinforced.
- After a restroom break, students will be expected to use hand sanitizer before re-entering the classroom.
- Disinfecting of restrooms will occur frequently throughout the day.

Transitions

- Students will have staggered transition periods when necessary and physical distancing will be encouraged.

Campus Visitors

Campuses will limit campus visitors if necessary based on community needs and higher number of cases and transmission rates.

Transportation

Students may be required to wear face coverings when riding the bus based on local or state orders. Students will sit in household pods and skip the first row of seats to allow physical distance between the driver, the students, and other household pods if necessary. When possible, windows will be open to allow outside air to circulate the bus.

Extra-Curricular Activities (UIL sponsored)

- Athletic practices and contests will be conducted following the guidance of TEA/UIL.
- Spectator attendance may be limited based on TEA and UIL guidance.
- Slidell I.S.D. will follow TEA and UIL guidance regarding co-curricular and extra-curricular activities as we approach these events.

Continuity of Services

Slidell ISD will utilize data and information from the Department of Education and other state and local resources to reopen our schools safely to ensure we are meeting the needs of all students.

Students' Academic Needs

- Address the impact of lost instructional time by supporting the implementation of evidence-based interventions that respond to students' social, emotional, and academic needs (tutorial time, guidance counseling program, Dial Care, targeted interventions, etc.) for all students
- High expectations for all students
- Provide afterschool high-quality academic tutoring when necessary (Greyhound University)
- Provide summer enrichment programs for at-risk students
- Utilize district hot spots and partnerships with Nextlink to provide high-quality home internet if available
- 1:1 technology device implementation
- High-quality curricular and instructional design and supports

Students' Social/Emotional/Mental Health

- Create safe, inclusive, positive, and stable learning environments
- Address the mental health of students by hiring district social worker
- Create partnerships with Wise Health Systems and Goodside Health for vaccinations and Wise County Christian Counseling for social emotional supports
- Implementation of district-wide guidance counseling program including the use of Goodside Health Mental Health Platform

- Create support services within counseling department to assist at-risk students or those experiencing homelessness
- Provide opportunities for student voice to be represented in the classroom/school

Staff Social/Emotional/Mental Health

- Address the mental and holistic health of staff by hiring a district social worker and continuing implementation of our Greyhound Wellness Plan
- Utilize wellness teams to address SEL needs of staff and students
- Share resources and regularly talk about mental health to provide open dialogue and a safe place to discuss needs
- Increase the use of high-qualified substitute teachers
- Implement block scheduling for additional planning and collaboration time for teachers
- Provide professional development and learning opportunities relevant to the needs of the staff we serve

Food Services

- School meals will be provided regardless of educational setting

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 state and/or local public health authorities.

