



**Return to In Person
Instruction and Continuity of
Services Plan (RIPICS)**

**Idalou ISD
School Year 2021-2022**

Introduction

The conditions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic are continually evolving, and Idalou ISD's Plans will be evaluated to adapt to the continuing trends of the COVID-19 virus, especially in the City of Idalou and surrounding Lubbock County communities. As adjustments may be necessary throughout the school year, it will be our priority to keep the community informed of those changes and updates. The Idalou ISD website will provide the most up to date information.

Please know that Idalou ISD will follow recommendations for school opening and operation from the Texas Education Agency, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), state and local health officials, and the Governor of the State of Texas. Circumstances related to COVID-19 may change throughout the coming school year.

Most Idalou ISD operations will return to normal (prior to COVID - 19) with the following expectations listed below.

Health and Safety Measures

Ensuring all students, staff, and community members remain healthy and safe by following best practices in the areas of:

- Guidance, directives, and recommendations from health authorities
- Health and safety information, social distancing as feasible and infection control practices (hand washing, etc.)
- School health office practices, personal protective equipment (PPE) as needed, management of students and staff showing signs of illness
- Per Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Order GA – 36 issued on May 18, 2021, face coverings can no longer be required for any student or staff member; however, masks may be worn by those who feel more comfortable doing so
- Face coverings no longer required in any educational space or activity including school buses, athletics, etc.
- If possible, face masks will be available for distribution upon request
- Idalou ISD will provide information to students, staff, and parents about COVID immunization opportunities as a courtesy to anyone who wishes to access a vaccine

- Per Governor Abbott's Executive Order, students and staff cannot be required to get vaccinated; COVID-19 has not been listed on the required immunizations for students
- Parents and students are required to report positive cases to the school nurse as reporting to the State Health Department is still required
- Close contact tracing will not be conducted; no mandated quarantines for exposure will be required
- There will be no campus wide notification of positive cases

Infection Control Measures

- Idalou ISD will continue to encourage good hand hygiene such as reminding students to wash their hands after using the restroom, before meals, after recess, etc.
- Students and staff will have access to hand sanitizer
- Students, staff, and visitors will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and if not available, covered in their elbows. Used tissues are to be thrown in the trash, hands should be washed for at least 20 seconds or hand sanitizer used
- Health clinics will have well, and sick students separated as feasible when needing health service

Health Screenings

- Parents/guardian are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms and other illness each day prior to sending their students to school
- Any student or staff feeling ill should stay home and seek medical advice from their physician
- Teachers will monitor students and refer to the nurse if symptoms are present
- In a positive lab-confirmed case, Idalou ISD will follow CDC, TEA, and local health authorities' recommendations for length of isolation—if individuals become positive, they must isolate for 10 days from the date of the positive test
- Individuals who suspect they have COVID but who have not been tested should isolate for 10 days after their symptoms first appeared and should be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication to be able to return to school
- In order to return to school or work, the student or staff member must be 24 hours free of fever without medication and symptoms (coughing, breathing, have significantly improved
- Students will continue to be sent home who have a fever, diarrhea, are vomiting, have lost taste or smell, or display any other significant symptoms of illness
- Absences due to COVID will be handled in accordance with the student handbook procedures just like any other illness—make-up work will be provided

Campus Operations

- Campuses will develop schedules and protocols for the use of common areas (labs, flexible spaces, libraries, conference rooms, teacher workrooms etc.) All students and staff are encouraged to use hand sanitizer when entering and exiting common areas.
- Procedures and protocols will be put into place to address locker rooms. Protocols will be in place for disinfecting equipment, students changing clothes, students showering, distancing of students, etc.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom, entrances, and throughout common areas
- Restrooms will continue to be disinfected daily / Classrooms will continue to have surfaces disinfected daily
- Touchpoints such as doorknobs, light switches, etc. will continue to be disinfected throughout all buildings on a daily basis
- Teachers will continue to have access to disinfectant supplies to clean high-touch areas if desired

Learning Environment

- Desks and tables will be arranged to maximize space between students; desks and tables will not always be placed 3 feet apart due to space constraints
- Staff will have access to disinfectant solutions to sanitize high touch/working surfaces
- Staff will limit the use of shared supplies when possible
- The number of students participating in small group instruction at one time will be limited as feasible
- Students will be encouraged to supply their own art supplies

Breakfast / Lunch

- Recommended health and safety measures will be followed by the cafeteria staff
- Sanitizing and hand washing practices in all areas of the kitchen and serving area
- Non-disposable food service items will be handled with gloves and washed with soap and hot water or in a dishwasher
- Students will be encouraged not to share food or drink or personal items
- All tables will be sanitized between lunches

Transportation

- Ridership will remain at typical district capacity
- All buses will have hand sanitizer available for use when loading/unloading
- All buses will continue to be disinfected and wiped down as needed
- Bus windows will be partially open (at minimum) during routes to provide for additional ventilation

Visitors

- Campuses will continue to limit campus visitors
- Lunch time will not be open to parents/visitors
- No visitors on campus with lab-confirmed COVID - 19 or symptoms of COVID - 19
- Face coverings will not be required for visitors; however, they may wear a face covering if they are more comfortable
- No non-emergency drop-offs such as snacks, lunch, instruments, fast food items, athletic equipment etc.
- Guest visits on campuses will be allowed for those required for educational purposes such as ARD meetings, 504 meetings, and parent/teacher conferences
- Visitors should use hand sanitizer upon entering a campus building
- Virtual meetings may be arranged to accommodate at a parent's request

Athletics and Activities

- Athletics and Activities will resume normal operations in 2021-22 in partnership with governing bodies. Extracurricular activities will follow the guidelines set forth by the UIL, community health organizations, and other related entities

Continuity of Services

Academic Instructional Delivery Models

Providing a high-quality education through face-to-face delivery model:

- In-Person Learning (Traditional Classroom Experience)
- No remote learning option is available this school year as the state will not fund virtual learning programs
- Students will have to be in attendance 90% of the day's instruction is offered in order to receive credit

In-Person Learning

- Available for students in Prekindergarten through Grade 12

- Students will attend school on a regular instructional schedule and will engage in face-to face learning on campus all day, every day
- Students will follow their class schedules by transitioning to different classrooms for course instruction as needed
- Classroom instruction will be designed for mastery of student learning outcomes based on the academic standards of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for each content area
- Student participation will be required 5 full days per week
- Instruction provided by Idalou ISD teachers
- Instruction in core content and elective areas
- District curriculum, unit sequencing and pacing of instruction
- Accommodations and support services provided
- Implementation of preventive safety measures
- Field trips will resume in 2021-22. Field trips will adhere to health and safety protocols in place at the time of the trip

Addressing the Impact of Learning Loss

- Idalou ISD will continue to move forward to respond to the pandemic and learning loss
- Idalou ISD continue to be flexible as governing authorities and/or health officials continue to update the status of present situations of environmental conditions affecting in place protocols
- Idalou ISD will continue to use screeners, benchmark assessments to help identify areas of learning gaps
- Incorporate differentiated learning opportunities as needed
- Provide more instructional time as needed during the school day to compensate for learning loss
- Provide after school tutoring opportunities for students not passing STAAR and EOC's
- Intervention strategies
- Small group instruction as feasible
- Tutoring through partnerships
- Possible online tutoring services
- Summer School
- Summer Academic Camps
- Credit Recovery

House Bill 4545

- The Texas Legislature enacted HB 4545 which requires that students who did not meet the passing standard for STAAR or EOC are to receive 30 hours of tutoring per

subject area failed between the start of the 2021-22 school year through the summer of 2022

- Tutoring opportunities during the school day or after school give the students the opportunity to:

- Receive help from a teacher
- Complete assignments
- Reduce homework
- Practice for presentations
- Collaborate on assignments with other classmates
- Study for tests or quizzes
- Gain assistance with long term assignments
- Reading assistance
- A deeper understanding of content

Social Emotional and Mental Health Support Systems

Idalou ISD is committed to ensuring the needs of all students. There has been growing recognition in the promoting and supporting of the social and emotional well-being of students. Idalou ISD will strive to connect with our students and build skills to identify emotions and feelings of stress and implement positive strategies to build relationships, cope with workloads, and examine ways to be successful in the midst of any challenges students may face in the coming year.

Idalou ISD will help address the mental health and social-emotional development of all students and staff and by following best practices in the areas of:

- School-based mental health services
- Behavioral support systems
- Family engagement and support practices
- Staff supports

Parent Communication

Providing families with clear and concise communication through the following outbound channels:

- Email / Text Messages
- Website
- Phone calls
- Parents are encouraged to make sure that all contact information is up to date at the child's campus – parent contact names, phone numbers, email addresses

Communication Tools and Channels

- Parents will receive texts from Idalou ISD to inform them of communications through letters or information posted to the District Website
- Campuses will share campus-specific information with parents via email, newsletters, student school email addresses and other campus communication tools.

Please note: Circumstances related to COVID-19 may change during the school year and Idalou ISD will keep everyone informed if conditions change that require notification. The district will monitor conditions as they evolve throughout the school year.

If you have a question about our District Return to In Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (RIPICS), please contact the Administration Office at 806-892-1900 or email your question to idalouisd.net.