

REFUGIO ISD RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION & CONTINUITY OF SERVICES PLAN (RIPICS)

Revised September 9, 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a fluid, ever-evolving situation for school districts. As Refugio ISD continues to remain 100% open for on campus learning, protocols and information for parents have also been evolving. The Refugio ISD Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan (RIPICS) is an effort by the district to keep students, parents, and staff informed of current protocols and recommendations for protection against the spread and contraction of COVID-19 in district facilities. The plan and protocols herein will change as necessary and will be updated at least every six months.

Refugio ISD remains committed to providing continuity of services for all students in the areas of instruction, social emotional well-being, extra-curricular activities, and food services. Good cleaning/disinfection practices as well as good hygiene habits will serve to not only slow the spread of COVID-19, but will also help prevent other viral and bacterial illnesses.

Refugio ISD will:

- Provide tutoring that meets or exceeds HB 4545 requirements
- Offer a robust summer school for students in need of learning acceleration
- Provide counseling services to address social emotional needs
- Provide a full-time Registered Nurse to address health issues and concerns
- Provide free breakfast and lunch for all students for the 2021-2022 school year
- Provide continuity of services for students with special needs on a case-by-case basis

Campus Procedures

As the information from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Texas Education Agency (TEA), and the University Interscholastic League (UIL) continues to change, campus procedures will also change as we strive to follow current guidance and recommendations. Please check with your child's campus if you have specific questions about campus procedures.

Currently, all campuses will follow the following procedures:

- Lunch-No outside meal drop-off allowed. If students will not be eating in the cafeteria, a meal must be brought from home with the exception of students in grades 9-12 who will continue to enjoy open campus dining unless health conditions warrant a change.
- Adults are currently not allowed to have lunch with students. Campuses will consider allowing parents to eat with students each six week period based on current health recommendations and active COVID cases.
- Parents are currently not allowed to walk students to classrooms.
- Meet the Teacher, assemblies, Open House, and Parent Conferences are currently scheduled as IN PERSON events; however, these activities may transition to virtual if conditions warrant the change.
- Any student or staff member who appears sick will be referred to the district nurse.
- The district nurse will determine when to send a student home who has COVID-19 symptoms.

CDC Safety Recommendations

Masks:

On April 17, 2021, Texas Governor, Greg Abbott, issued executive order No. GA-36 that ended mask mandates for schools effective June 2021. Families still have the right to choose if their children wear masks during the 2021-2022 school year; however, without a change to the Governor's order, Refugio ISD will not mandate mask wearing. Refugio ISD does *recommend* mask wearing as age and task appropriate.

Social Distancing:

- Students will be socially distanced in classrooms to the extent possible.
- Desks/tables will be socially distanced as space permits
- Outdoor spaces will be utilized for learning as appropriate
- Walking pathways will be designated as right justified to ensure minimal contact

Handwashing & Respiratory Etiquette:

- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be available at the main entry to the campus, in classrooms, in the cafeteria, and other common areas throughout each campus
- Hand washing will be practiced upon return from outdoors, before eating, and following restroom breaks
- Proper handwashing technique as well as coughing/sneezing etiquette will be modeled and reinforced
- Student supplies will not be shared to limit contact exposure
- Music and PE equipment will be sanitized and wiped down after each use

Cleaning & Maintaining Facilities:

- Each classroom and restroom will be disinfected daily
- High contact areas will be disinfected daily
- Staff will have access to disinfectant wipes to sanitize working surfaces/materials after use
- Cafeteria tables and key pad will be disinfected between lunches
- Clorox 360 electrostatic sprayer will be used regularly to sanitize high use areas, athletic facilities and buses
- Air purifiers will filter the air in high traffic areas such as cafeterias and the band hall

Contact Tracing:

- Refugio ISD is not required to conduct contact tracing for the 2021-2022 school year. However, parents will receive notification from the district if their child has been exposed to COVID.

COVID Testing:

- Refugio ISD will continue to provide rapid COVID testing as long as tests are available to the district.

Vaccinations:

- Refugio ISD will continue to partner with local health authorities to provide opportunities for staff and eligible students to receive on campus vaccinations.

COVID Positive:

- Students and staff who are positive for COVID-19 will be sent home for a stay-at-home period of 10 days from the onset of symptoms.
- If a student tests positive while at school, he/she must be picked up within 30 minutes to limit exposure.
- All facilities utilized by the COVID positive individual will be thoroughly disinfected as soon as possible.
- Students will be removed from those areas until disinfection is completed.

Close Contact:

- Fully vaccinated individuals or those that have tested COVID positive within the last 3 months will NOT be required to quarantine after confirmed close contact with someone that is COVID positive. These individuals should monitor symptoms, have a COVID test on day 3-5 from close contact, and wear a mask for 14 days while in public settings.
- If a parent elects to quarantine their child(ren) after a close contact, they must remain out of school for 5 days. After the 5th day, parents may choose to test a student at the nurse's office or personal medical doctor, and if the student has a negative test, he/she can return to school on day 7 after the initial quarantine day.
- Students that quarantine without COVID-19 testing may return to school after 10 days of quarantine.
- Quarantined students are not allowed to participate in or attend any campus activities for the duration of the quarantine period.

Reporting:

- Report positive COVID-19 cases to the district nurse, Emilee Cox, RN.
- Report vaccination status to the district nurse in order to determine quarantine requirements.