



# **Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services (RIPICS) Plan**

## **Introduction**

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act statute requires that LEAs develop and make publicly available their plans for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. A summary of Loraine Independent School District plans is below.

## **Effective Date of Plan**

This plan is effective as of August 12, 2021

## **Public Comment & Stakeholder Input**

This plan was developed in consultation with stakeholders after soliciting public comment via Public Board Meeting, Community wide meetings on Tuesday, June 29, 2021 at 6:00pm and again on Thursday July 1, 2021 at 2:00pm. We used the schools bulletin board, the local newspaper and the LISD School website to post information pertaining to these meetings and public comment options.

## **Ongoing Review & Publication of Plan**

The plan was drafted on July 12, 2021 and posted to the LEA website at <https://loraine.esc14.net/>. Every six months, Loraine ISD administration will review the plan in accordance with the latest guidance from the CDC, state and local governments. If revisions are needed to the plan, public input will be solicited and stakeholders will be meaningfully consulted. The revised version of the plan will then be posted on the website. The chart below provides information on this ongoing process.

<b>Return to In-Person Instruction &amp; Continuity of Services Plan Review</b>		
<b>2021-2022 Year 1</b>	<u><b>Date of Initial Plan:</b></u> July 12, 2021	<u><b>Six Month Review Date:</b></u> January 2022 <input type="checkbox"/> No revision needed <input type="checkbox"/> Revisions were made
<b>2022-2023 Year 2</b>	<u><b>Six Month Review Date:</b></u> July 2022 <input type="checkbox"/> No revision needed <input type="checkbox"/> Revisions were made	<u><b>End of Grant Period Review Date:</b></u> January 2023 <input type="checkbox"/> No revision needed <input type="checkbox"/> Revisions were made
<b>2023-2024 (Carryover Year)</b>	<b>Last required review is 9/30/2023 ~Grant ends 9/30/24~</b>	

## General Instructional Settings

- **Face to Face Instruction and Remote/Virtual Learning**

Loraine ISD will not offer the parents the option for either face to face or remote/virtual learning. All students will be required to attend school for face to face instruction and follow all compulsory attendance laws. All COVID protocols will still be followed if a student is tested positive or has been in close contact with another positively identified COVID case.

- Face to Face instruction – Students attend on campus instruction daily and follow safety, sanitation, and social distancing expectations.
- Remote/Virtual Learning – Will ONLY be used if designated by the school administration – Students participate in the classroom instruction via remote/virtual learning and are expected to complete and submit all assignments as communicated by the teacher of record.

- **Transportation**

- Parents/Guardians are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their student to board the bus or drop off in the morning.
- A student should not board the bus or attend school if they have a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit and guidelines must be followed before he/she is allowed to return to school.
- Buses will be thoroughly cleaned after each bus trip, focusing on the high-touch surfaces such as bus seats, steering wheels, knobs, and door handles.

## **Provisions to Reduce Risk of Exposure to Health Hazards**

Provide each classroom with hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes.

- Hand sanitizing stations located at every entrance, hallway locations, cafeteria, fieldhouse and gymnasium
- All employees will be trained to specifically follow health safety protocols
- Provide all teachers with no-touch thermometers
- Modify daily cleaning schedules to ensure each space is sanitized and disinfected multiple times a day; and deep cleaning of campuses once a week
- Each classroom and restroom will be cleaned and disinfected regularly throughout the day.
- Classroom furniture will be rearranged to ensure maximum physical distancing and improve traffic flow.
- Work areas will be sanitized after each class. Students will be taught and encouraged to clean their own work areas, as feasible, custodians will clean workstations on a scheduled basis.
- Students are to bring their own refillable water bottles, clear bottles only, as water fountains will not be accessible.
- Staff will monitor the classrooms, hallways, playground, and cafeteria to promote social distancing practices.
- As of June 5, 2021, since Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Order No. GA-36 relating to the prohibition of governmental entities and officials from mandatory face covering or restricting activities in response to the COVID-19 disaster, no one required to wear a mask (masks are optional), but all staff and students are still allowed to wear masks when in the building, classroom, and/or office with others and when not able to social distance.
- Athletics and extracurricular activities will be conducted in alignment with UIL guidelines.

## **Definition of COVID-19 Symptoms**

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, individuals will be asked if they have recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them:

- Fever or chills
- New loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Muscle or body aches

- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

## **Students' Academic Needs**

Students will attend school on a regular basis and will engage in face to face instruction on campus each day. It is the intent of Loraine ISD to hire additional staff that are considered experts in the field of Reading/Language Arts and in Math to facilitate in the learning loss as a result of the COVID pandemic. We will be providing additional summer school resources and opportunities to students to compensate for any learning loss by the absence of traditional learning. Tutorials will be provided after school to continue to reach all students. Extra Continuing Education hours and furthering certification opportunities will be available for staff to better instruct all students, including those showing signs of learning loss due to the pandemic. Loraine ISD intends to purchase school supplies and electronic devices for all students to help reduce contamination between students.

## **Students' and Staff Social, Emotional, Mental Health Needs**

Loraine ISD will continue to provide a district-wide counselor to provide explicit instruction in social, emotional, and cognitive skills to support students' non-academic needs caused by the COVID pandemic. Character Education will be taught in guidance lesson format. Focus on staff morale and retention will be made in an effort to keep strong teachers in Loraine ISD.

## **Communication**

Parents will continue to receive communication from Loraine ISD website, School Messenger, LISD Bulletin boards, LISD Facebook and mail.

## **FAQ's**

- **Will health and safety training be provided for all staff and students?**

Yes. All staff members will receive COVID-19 prevention training prior to the opening of school. All students will receive instruction on health protocols related to minimizing the spread of COVID-19.

- **How many students will be assigned to each classroom?**

Loraine ISD will follow TEA guidelines for class size. At this time, the class size requirements are the same as a regular school year. The maximum number of students per class varies by grade level and also varies by class at the secondary level. Loraine ISD generally does not have to file waivers for larger class size.

- **Will bus transportation be provided for qualified students?**

Yes, transportation will continue to be provided for all students, including transfer students as has been in the past. Parents are encouraged to provide their own transportation.

- **How will social distancing be promoted in cafeterias, gyms, restrooms, and other commons areas?**

Signage reminding students and staff about social distancing, handwashing, and infection prevention will be posted throughout the school. Breakfast, lunch, and gym access times will be scheduled to reduce the number of students in any given area as much as possible.

- **What precautions will be in place for athletics and other extracurricular activities?**

Loraine ISD will continue to follow all guidelines provided by UIL, TEA, and the state.

- **Will students have recess or the ability to play and socialize with other students?**

Yes. Necessary health and safety precautions will be taken as described throughout this plan. Students and staff will be required to use hand sanitizer and wash their hands before and after recess. Sanitizing sprays will be used frequently on playground equipment.

- **Will students in grades 7-12 be able to participate in extracurricular activities such as clubs and organization meetings?**

Yes, students who select On-Campus Learning may participate in all “normal” activities, as done in the past.

- **What happens if a student or a teacher tests positive for COVID-19? Will the entire classroom have to quarantine? What if multiple classrooms and students/staff are impacted? Will students be able to participate in At-Home Learning during the quarantine?**

Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 will be sent home to recover. When notification of a possible exposure occurs, in coordination with local health authorities, the campus/district will conduct contact tracing. Based on the results, a determination will be made as to whether an entire classroom or multiple classrooms are required to quarantine. In the event students are required to temporarily quarantine, the missed days will be counted as student absences. At-Home Learning is not an option TEA has made available to schools for the 21-22 school year. If there are an excessive number of absences occurring across campus, Loraine Administration may have the need to close the school campus and cancel classes during that time. If LISD must close due to excessive COVID cases, the missed days will have to be made up either during scheduled holiday times or after the scheduled school year end date. Please remember, TEA requires school districts to conduct a total of 75,600 minutes of instruction each year. If a district fails to meet that requirement, the amount of revenue they receive from The State will be decreased.

- **Will computer devices be made available to students who need them?**

Yes. All students will have a device checked out to them. Loraine ISD is purchasing devices to secure enough for each student to have their own device.

- **How will student progress be reported?**

Overall progress on learning outcomes will be communicated in a “traditional” format using numeric grades. Assignments and grades will be entered into our grading system. Loraine ISD will continue to practice the six 6-week grading periods.

- **Will STAAR/EOC be administered in 2021-2022?**

Yes. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has indicated that STAAR testing will still occur during the 2021-2022 school year, in compliance with state and federal legislation.

## **Questions**

Questions regarding this plan may be directed to:

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