

VERIBEST ISD

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 Veribest ISD's plans is below.

Effective Date of Plan

This plan is effective as of August 30, 2021.

Public Comment & Stakeholder Input

This plan was developed in consultation with stakeholders after soliciting public comment via public board meeting on August 23, 2021. Examples of plans were shared during the Superintendent's report and feedback on an appropriate plan was welcomed and received. Other opportunities to share were on a Plus Delta faculty survey, and on the parent and community member survey form located on our website.

The plan was drafted on August 30, 2021 and posted to the LEA website www.veribestisd.net Every six months, the Veribest ISD 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.

Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan Review		
2021-2022 Year 1	<u>Date of Initial Plan:</u> August 30, 2021	<u>Six Month Review Date:</u> January 21, 2022 <input type="checkbox"/> No revision needed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revisions were made
2022-2023 Year 2	<u>Six Month Review Date:</u> July 2022 <input type="checkbox"/> No revision needed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revisions were made	<u>End of Grant Period Review Date:</u> December 5, 2022 <input type="checkbox"/> No revision needed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revisions were made
2023-2024 (Carryover Year)	Last required review is 9/30/2023 ~Grant ends 9/30/24~	

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General Instructional Settings

Veribest ISD will hold on-campus instruction with safety prevention measures in place. We will **no longer offer asynchronous online learning**. Veribest ISD will comply with the CDC guidelines and request that any student or staff member that is lab confirmed COVID positive stay home for 10 days and also be 24 hours fever/symptom free before returning to school. Veribest ISD will not perform contact tracing. Per TEA guidelines, it will be a parent's choice to keep a student home in the event they might have been exposed.

Veribest ISD is committed to keeping our students and faculty safe by keeping preventative measures in place. Provisions to Reduce Risk of Exposure to Health Hazards

Systems & Procedures

Prevention

Practices to Prevent the Virus from Entering the School

1. Veribest ISD is requiring any student who is lab confirmed COVID positive to comply with the CDC guidelines and remain off campus for 10 days and also be fever free and symptom free for 24 hours.
2. Veribest ISD is continuing to reinforce the general illness prevention measures and ask that students remain home with any illness until they are 24 hours fever free.
3. At this time, Veribest ISD will allow visitors to our campuses for school events. Visitors or students who are lab confirmed COVID positive must meet the requirements for re-entry stated above before they attend ANY school events. (If the student was home due to COVID related reasons, they may NOT attend any school events that day.)

Close Contact

Veribest ISD will not perform contact tracing but will allow 3 excused absences for contact tracing before a doctor's note is required. We will allow students up to 3 excused absences if their parent/guardian chooses to contact trace to determine if they are at risk of catching COVID-19. After the 3 days, Campus Secretaries will need a doctor's note in order to continue with excused absences. If your student has been exposed and you wish to utilize the 3 days to contact trace, please notify the campus your child attends so we can adjust their attendance.

Individuals Lab Confirmed with COVID-19:

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1. Any individuals who are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 cannot return to campus until the school nurse screens the individual to determine if all of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:
 - a. In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
 - i. at least 24 hours have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 - ii. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 - iii. at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Response

If Individuals with Lab-Confirmed Cases Have Been in a School:

1. If an individual who has been in a school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify its 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).
2. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must notify parents of students who have been in close contact with someone who tested positive as well as any staff who may have been exposed.

Mitigation

Practices to Mitigate the Likelihood of COVID-19 Spread Inside the School Operational Considerations

Health and Hygiene Practices: General

1. The school will have hand sanitizer and/or hand washing stations with soap and water throughout the school buildings.
2. Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors should be encouraged to sanitize and/or wash hands frequently.
3. The school will teach students good handwashing techniques and good hygiene techniques to all students to help prevent the spread of germs.
4. Campuses will continue effective cleaning practices, including additional cleaning by janitorial staff when needed, as well as provide the opportunity for children to clean their own spaces before and after they are used, in ways that are safe and developmentally appropriate.

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5. On the first day a student attends school, the school will provide instruction to students on appropriate hygiene practices and other mitigation practices adopted in the local school system.

Health and Hygiene Practices: Masks/Face Coverings

Masks will not be required at Veribest ISD for the 2022-2023 school year however students who wish to wear them may. Veribest ISD will not be providing masks for students this year so anyone wishing to wear one needs to bring their own.

Secondary Elective/Extracurricular Courses:

1. All extracurricular practices and contests will be conducted following safety protocols provided by guidance from UIL and TEA.
2. Students who are lab confirmed COVID-19 positive may not participate or attend any extracurricular activities until they have been screened and allowed to return back to school.

Modifications to Facilities

1. The school will have hand sanitizer and/or hand washing stations with soap and water throughout the school buildings.
2. Air purifiers have been purchased and placed strategically to purify the air in high traffic areas.
3. Cots have been purchased for nap time in Prekindergarten and kindergarten so that nap areas can be easily cleaned and disinfected.
4. Lockers have been installed so students in 3rd-5th grades can keep their items put up off the floor and away from others to prevent germs from spreading and to make cleaning easier in those classrooms and hallways.

Students' Academic Needs

1. After school tutorials are taking place for students who have learning gaps due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. In-school tutorial sessions occur during Falcon Period to help close learning gaps.
3. Summer school takes place in June to continue to close learning gaps.
4. Curriculum has been purchased to fill gaps among all students.
5. Lexia has been implemented as a Reading intervention to address individual student academic needs.

Students' Social, Emotional, Mental Health Needs

1. Social Emotional Lessons are being taught by our guidance counselor to grades Prekindergarten-12th Grade.
2. Character Counts and Character Strong has been purchased to use for Social Emotional Guidance Lessons in Prekindergarten-12th grade beginning in August 2022.

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Staff's Social, Emotional, Mental Health Needs

1. Staff members are encouraged to monitor their emotional well-being and take time as needed for self-care.
2. Staff members are made aware that we have an open-door policy and welcome dialogue regarding issues that the administration can help with.
3. Staff are able to wear jeans every day to school.
4. We have adjusted our schedule to have 3:00pm releases on Fridays beginning in August 2022.
5. Staff luncheons are hosted monthly by the administration.

Questions

Questions regarding this plan may be directed to:

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