

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

## Union Grove I.S.D.

### 2021-2024



*Information will be shared, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand. If you need assistance, or have any questions about this document, please contact Kelli Moore, Superintendent. Translation services are available.*

*La información se compartirá, en la medida de lo posible, en un idioma que los miembros de la familia puedan entender. If you need assistance, or have any questions about this document, please contact Si necesita ayuda o tiene alguna pregunta sobre este documento, comuníquese con Kelli Moore, Superintendente. Los servicios de traducción están disponibles.*

**The RIPICS Plan will be updated every six months, following the schedule below.**

	Stakeholder Input Gathered	Plan Reviewed at Board Meeting
July 2021	<i>June &amp; July - Links on District Website; Board Meeting</i>	<i>Initial Plan Developed and Presented Aug. 9, 2021</i>
January 2022	<i>Jan. 1-28, 2022</i>	<i>Feb. 14, 2022</i>
July 2022	<i>July 1-15, 2022</i>	<i>Aug. 8, 2022</i>
January 2023	Jan. 1-15, 2023	Jan. 2023
July 2023	July 1-15, 2023	Aug. 2023
January 2024 (Carryover period)		
July 2024 (Carryover period)		

## District Priorities and Purpose

Union Grove ISD's **RIPICS** Plan (Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan) has been created to meet the requirements for the ESSER III grant. The plan is designed to be flexible as governing authorities and/or health officials update us on present situations of the environmental conditions effecting our protocols for safety.

## Meaningful Consultation

**Stakeholder Input will be obtained every six months and used to update the RIPICS and Use of Funds plans for ESSER III, through the end of the grant project period.**

Stakeholders include:

- Students, families, school and district administrators (including special education administrators); and teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff;
- to the extent present in or served by the LEA tribes, civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations);
- stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English language learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migrant students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students.



Topics of concern to be addressed are: our special populations, mental health services, lost instructional time, improving air quality, purchasing educational technology, and repairing/improving school facilities to reduce the risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards.

**Stakeholder input will be obtained in a variety of ways, such as:**



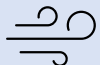
- School district website at <https://www.ugisd.org>
- School board meetings
- Focus group meetings
- Email, telephone, and in-person
- Surveys
- District SBDM Meetings

Union Grove ISD has and will continue to engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders and give the public an opportunity to provide input in the development of its plan for the uses of ARP ESSER III funds to be utilized for safely opening and operating for in-person learning according to CDC guidance. The funds will address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning and extended day. Union Grove ISD ensures that the interventions to be implemented will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students.



### Prevention & Mitigation Strategies Consistent with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

CDC Area to Address	District Protocols
 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Universal and correct wearing of masks.</b></p>	<p>Students &amp; staff have the <u>option</u> to wear a mask or face shield.</p> <p><b>Face Coverings</b> – Masks and face coverings are optional for students, staff and visitors in district facilities, school buses and school events. We would encourage students &amp; staff to take whatever precautions they feel comfortable with considering Covid.</p> <p>As of June 5, 2021, per <b>GA-36</b> school systems cannot require students or staff to wear masks.</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Facilities and Physical Distancing</b></p>	<p>Modifying facilities and physical distancing is enforced through the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Spacing of furniture</li> <li>● Greater access to open air areas</li> <li>● Greater access to outside areas</li> </ul>




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<p><b>CDC Area to Address</b></p>	<p><b>District Protocols</b></p>
 <p><b>Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Handwashing &amp; Sanitizer</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools will have hand sanitizer in classrooms, in the cafeteria, and in common areas throughout the campus.</li> <li>• Students &amp; staff will utilize hand washing areas &amp; sanitizer during the day.</li> <li>• Students will be reminded to wash hands on a regular basis.</li> <li>• Staff will have access to disinfectant wipes to sanitize high touch surfaces and shared objects regularly.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Respiratory Etiquette</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, covered in their elbows. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash. Hands should be washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer should be used.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Cleaning</u></b>                      Union Grove ISD will continue to clean classrooms, restrooms, and other common areas daily.</p> <p><b><u>Deep Cleaning and Disinfection Protocol</u></b>                      Deep cleaning is triggered when an active employee or student is identified as positive for COVID-19 based on testing. Deep cleaning will be performed as soon as the confirmation of a positive test, as practical. While the scope of deep cleaning is presumed to be the full site, sites may reduce the footprint to be deep cleaned if there is sufficient rationale to do so.</p> <p>We will close off areas that were heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 24 hours have already passed since that person was on campus.</p>
 <p><b>Improving Ventilation.</b></p>	<p>Union Grove ISD plans to upgrade HVAC units in 2021-2022. Additional measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening of doors, when feasible.</li> <li>• Opening of windows, when feasible.</li> <li>• Frequent replacement of filters.</li> <li>• Use of fans, and/or air purifiers.</li> </ul>



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 <p><b>Contact Tracing</b></p>	<p><b>Contact Tracing</b> will be coordinated with the state, local, territorial, and/or Tribal health departments.</p> <p><b>Notification:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union Grove ISD will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any on-campus activities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Isolation and Quarantine for Positive Lab-Confirmed Covid 19:</b></p> <p>The district will follow CDC guidance and other governing authorities for length of isolation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24-hour period free of fever without medication,</li> <li>• Symptoms have significantly improved (coughing/breathing/shortness of breath).</li> <li>• At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first occurred.</li> <li>• If you have symptoms that could be COVID-19 and do not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, it is assumed that you have COVID-19 and may not return to work until the three criteria listed above have been met.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Diagnostic and Screening Testing</b></p>	<p>Staff will pre-screen for COVID-19 symptoms every day prior to entering the school.</p> <p>Parents must ensure they will not send a child to school on campus (or on a bus) if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.</p> <p>Teachers will monitor students and refer them to the nurse if symptoms are present.</p>

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 <p><b>Vaccinations</b></p>	<p>Efforts will be made to provide vaccinations to the school community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Resources for Parents link on the district website also has information provided by the Texas School &amp; Child-Care Facility Immunizations at the following link:</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/school/">https://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/school/</a></p> <p>A list of <a href="#">required immunizations</a> is provided in English and Spanish. The school nurse provides immunizations for students with Medicaid and no health insurance. Please email her if you have questions.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Texas Department of State Health Services</a> has more information on Immunization requirements and procedures for <b><u>claiming exemptions</u></b>.</p> <p>For a list of health clinics in the district that offer influenza vaccine, please click on the <b><u>Flu Vaccine Finder</u></b>.</p>
 <p><b>Accommodations for Children with Disabilities</b></p>	<p>Appropriate accommodations are determined on an individual basis for students with disabilities following all district, state, and federal health and safety policies.</p> <p>Parents and teachers of students with disabilities receiving Related Services for Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, Orientation and Mobility, Vision Training, and Special Education Counseling are supported by services provided through the <b>Upshur County Special Education Shared Services Arrangement</b>.</p> <p>More detailed information is provided through the SSA website, at: <a href="https://www.ucssa.com">https://www.ucssa.com</a></p>
 <p><b>Coordination with State and Local Health Officials</b></p>	<p>Union Grove ISD will continue to work with local health authorities to inform families &amp; staff members about vaccination clinics and testing for COVID-19. We will use the District Website, at <a href="https://www.ugisd.org">https://www.ugisd.org</a>, Facebook, Campus blogs, email, and letters to share information.</p>
CDC Area to Address	District Protocols

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 <p><b>Continuity of Services</b></p>	<p>To ensure the continuity of educational services, students with a lab confirmed positive diagnosis of COVID-19 or a confirmed exposure will receive instruction through different modalities.</p> <p><b><u>Teachers may use:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Google classroom,</li> <li>• Educational software, and</li> <li>• other resources for students.</li> </ul> <p>Remote learning resources can be located on our district website at: at <a href="https://www.ugisd.org">https://www.ugisd.org</a>.</p> <p>The campus principal and teachers will communicate that information as needed. The school will provide technology, as needed, for the student to complete schoolwork.</p>
 <p><b>Students' Academic Needs</b></p>	<p><b><u>Extended and Targeted Instructional Time / Rigorous Instructional Materials</u></b></p> <p>Students' academic needs and learning loss caused by COVID-19 will be designed and delivered using evidence-based interventions. Accelerated learning will be provided through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• targeted interventions within the school day</li> <li>• increased learning time through summer school</li> <li>• increased learning time through extended day learning, such as after-school tutorials</li> <li>• quality reading materials and instructional supplies</li> </ul>

<p><b>CDC Area to Address</b></p>	<p><b>District Protocols</b></p>
<div data-bbox="305 506 412 632" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="207 646 509 821"><b>Students' and Staff Social, Emotional, Mental Health (and other) Needs</b></p>	<p data-bbox="537 317 751 348"><b><u>Supported Staff</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="537 359 1382 390">Union Grove ISD provides support for staff in the following ways:</p> <ul data-bbox="586 401 1484 632" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• allows flexible scheduling to accommodate quarantines due to COVID-19.</li> <li>• Provides professional development to support new modes of instructional delivery.</li> <li>• Recruitment and retention strategies to encourage staff to stay and grow in the district.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="537 674 805 705"><b><u>Supported Students</u></b></p> <ul data-bbox="586 716 1490 1014" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social-Emotional Learning activities are embedded into instructional strategies using the Character Strong program to provide an inclusive learning environment for all students.</li> <li>• Counselors are available for all students if they need additional support and counseling.</li> <li>• Counselors coordinate available resources within the school system and from community agencies to provide referral information to families and students.</li> </ul>
<div data-bbox="302 1100 418 1171" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="256 1213 464 1287"><b>Student Health Needs</b></p>	<p data-bbox="537 1031 1451 1136">Registered Nurses are available on each campus to assist with student health needs. Information and resources are provided to parents and families in coordination the <b>Upshur County</b> health department.</p> <p data-bbox="537 1184 1175 1215"><b><u>Protocol for COVID-19 Symptomatic Individuals:</u></b></p> <ul data-bbox="548 1226 1451 1493" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay home and seek medical advice from a physician</li> <li>• Students with symptoms will be sent to the nurse. The nurse will determine if the child should be sent home. The student will stay in isolation until picked up ASAP</li> <li>• Submit a medical professional's note for return clearance</li> <li>• Contact tracing will follow the Upshur Country recommendations to keep a log of cases.</li> </ul>
<div data-bbox="318 1598 396 1696" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="248 1717 472 1749"><b>Food Service</b></p>	<p data-bbox="537 1545 1468 1608">The district follows the USDA guidelines for providing free and reduced-price meals for students.</p>

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