

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

As required by ESSER III

To be posted on NIA website, allow for public comment, and review every 6 months (updating as needed based on changing environment, public comment, and CDC guidance updates)

Part 1: Safe Return to In-Person Instruction

Newman will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and district staff by adopting the following policies which take into account CDC's safety recommendations:

- 1. Wearing of masks-** Per local school board policy adopted 7/22/21, wearing of masks is not required.
- 2. Modification of facilities to allow for physical distancing-** In 2021-2022, Newman made efforts to set up classrooms and schedule classes to encourage social distancing where possible. Newman will continue these measures if required by the CDC and local mandate.
- 3. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette-** Students, faculty, staff and visitors will be encouraged to wash hands often (with soap and water for at least 20 seconds to remove dirt and germs) and use hand sanitizer (to kill any remaining germs). Students will continue to be trained in proper hand washing and respiratory etiquette.
- 4. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation (air quality)-** Newman will continue to clean facilities regularly to help prevent the spread of infection. Newman is also evaluating ventilation and air quality at each campus and will prioritize improvements as needed.
- 5. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine in collaboration with local health departments-** In partnership with Tarrant and Dallas County health authorities, Newman will continue to follow current mandates regarding contact tracing and applicable requirements for isolation and quarantine.
- 6. Diagnostic screening and testing-** Newman will continue to communicate with families, faculty, and staff via emails, school newsletters, and website postings regarding community-based options for diagnostic screening and testing. As of Fall 2021, Newman staff can be tested for free at the Gibbins campus on school days, and testing is available to students upon parent request.
- 7. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities-** Newman will continue to communicate with families, faculty, and staff via emails, school newsletters, and website postings regarding community-based options for vaccinations.
- 8. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies-** Newman will continue to evaluate the needs of children with disabilities and make appropriate accommodations as needed with respect to health and safety.
- 9. Coordination with State and local health officials-** Newman has designated staff who communicate regularly with Tarrant and Dallas County health authorities to stay apprised of State health guidance and mandated policy updates.

Part 2: Continuity of Services

Newman will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health and other needs, which includes student health and food services.

Newman continues to prioritize all aspects of complete, well-rounded education by building students in wisdom (academic aspects), stature (physical health), and favor (social, emotional, and mental health). All Newman programs are designed to support all aspects of student well-being:

- **Wisdom:** rigorous academic expectations combined with regular review of materials, quality curriculum/ resources/ lesson planning, and appropriate accommodations and other supports
- **Stature:** regular exercise (recess, PE, and athletics) and healthy on-campus meals
- **Favor:** social, emotional and mental health by in-class mentorship, weekly POWWOW meetings focusing on developing positive character traits, daily accountability through consistent expectations on student discipline and positive reinforcement of good behavior, and a loving and nurturing environment that encourages students to blossom and grow

Plan Guidelines:

Specifically, the LEA plan must address the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any policies, on each of the CDC's recommendations on: universal and correct wearing of masks; modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding); handwashing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments; diagnostic and screening testing; efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities; appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and coordination with State and local health officials.

Explanation of Public Input:

The Plan is posted as a Board meeting agenda item and publicly discussed. Newman continues to monitor CDC, TEA, and local health department guidelines. The plan will be listed as Board meeting agenda item every 6 months and publicly discussed per ESSER III requirements.

Translation Policy:

Newman International Academy is truly an international school that serves students speaking over 25 different native languages including some Spanish but also languages such as Arabic, Igbo, Swahili, and Portuguese. Therefore, parents are encouraged to contact their campus office regarding documents if they would like further interpretation and explanation.