



## Alturas International Academy Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

We believe our students' educational needs are beyond important and we want to ensure they will receive the education they need and deserve. In that, we also want to protect our community, and at Alturas International Academy, we believe strongly in a culture that supports others in times of need and uncertainty. It is intended that Alturas International Academy will provide education in a fully in-person instructional model for the full school year, however additional measures will remain in place in order to continue to provide a healthy and safe learning environment.

### **Universal Masking**

Due to the recent news that all school-aged children are now eligible for the Covid-19 vaccination, we believe we have taken all the measures as a school to protect our students. With the vaccine available, it is up to the parents to provide the precautions they believe is necessary to protect their children, and will no longer require the universal use of masks as a mitigation measure.

### **Responding to an Outbreak**

The charter administration team has the authority to make operational decisions, if necessary, to mitigate the spread of illness. These decisions will be based upon an in-depth review of the situation and in collaboration with the local health district. The following guidelines will be set regarding COVID-19 related situations:

- **Quarantining**
  - Students and staff will be required to self-quarantine at home if they test positive for COVID-19. Students and staff may not return to the building for 10 days from the onset of symptoms.
  
- **Close Contact**
  - If a student or staff member is in close contact with someone whom has contracted COVID-19, they may attend in-person classes, but must wear a mask, and monitor themselves closely for COVID-19 symptoms during the two weeks after exposure. If they develop symptoms, they should stay home. If an individual wishes to be tested for Covid-19 after having a close contact with a positive case, and the test is negative, they will not need to quarantine for 10 days.

*Further guidance will be monitored and considered from official sources such as Eastern Idaho Public Health, Idaho State Board of Education, and the Centers for Disease Control.*

## Preventative Measures

Alturas International implements the following preventative measures to help stop the spread of disease:

- Alturas provides students N-95 masks to those who wish to wear one for higher protection
- Alturas has purchased HEPA air purification machines for each classroom
- Encourage proper hand hygiene
  - Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom and at each entrance of the school building.
  - Regular opportunities for handwashing will be available to students
  - Proper hand washing techniques will be taught on a regular basis
- Adequate supplies such as soap, sanitizer, tissues, and disinfectant wipes will be provided and used consistently throughout the day
  - Students will assist in keeping classrooms clean and organized on a daily basis. All major surfaces will be wiped clean using disinfectant wipes
- Our school facility will be rigorously cleaned throughout the day
  - While school is in session all common high touch areas will be cleaned multiple times during the course of the day
  - Surfaces will be cleaned and sanitized daily to help reduce the spread of germs
- Encourage respiratory etiquette among students and staff through education and the provision of supplies
  - Teach students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or into their elbow. If they use a tissue, they should put the used tissue in a trash can and wash their hands
  - Provide adequate supplies within easy reach, including tissues and no-touch trash cans

## Procedures for Monitoring Illness

If a student or staff member develops any of the symptoms listed below, the student / staff member will be sent to the front office. The person's temperature will be taken in the office. If necessary, the office will call the student's parents and discuss the symptoms with the parent. Students or staff may be sent home to rest and recuperate depending on the severity of the symptoms.

- **Symptoms requiring a student or staff member to stay at home**
  - A temperature of 100.4° F or higher. ***Students and staff need to be fever free without the use of fever reducing medication for at least 24 hours before attending school***
  - Vomiting
  - Diarrhea
- **Other symptoms where students or staff members may need to stay at home**
  - New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing or for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Nausea
  - New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever
  - Sore throat

Parents and staff are expected to review these symptoms daily. **It is up to the individual parent and to determine if a person needs to stay home, however during school hours' teachers and staff can determine if a student needs to be sent home due to any of the above symptoms.**

### **Remote Model**

It is intended that Alturas International Academy will provide education in a fully in-person instructional model for the full school year.

However, in the event the school or class needs to move into a remote model for a period of time, the following events will occur:

- Students will be provided access to technology
- Students will be provided a Chromebook once a checkout sheet has been signed and returned
- Teachers will utilize online resources to support their class such as Google Classroom, Zoom, and Google Meets
- Students will follow their daily routine as established in their classroom
  - Classroom teachers will send out notices and agendas to parents
  - Technology resources will be provided and will be located on the school website
- Any additional supplies will be made available for students
- Alturas' attendance policy will remain in place
  - An excused absence includes only: school sponsored activity; a death in the family or close friend, or absence due to illness, medical/dental treatment verified by a licensed healthcare practitioner. In most of the above cases, a note is required by a healthcare provider for the absence to count as an excused absence. However, if students are suffering from COVID like symptoms, parents must contact the office to verify the excused absence for their student.
  - When a student reaches six (6) unexcused absences in a semester, whether full-day or in any given class period, parents/guardians will be contacted to discuss the student's attendance habits
  - When a student reaches eight (8) unexcused absences, whether full-day or in any given class period, in a given semester, the teacher will notify the administration and together (the administration and teacher) will conference with the student and parent/guardian to establish an attendance plan
  - Unexcused absences beyond twelve (12), whether full-day or in any given class period, in a semester may result in a referral, in the sole discretion of the school leadership team, to the Board of Directors for potential expulsion from the school for habitual truancy pursuant to the requirements of Idaho Code 33-205

### **Ensuring the Continuity of Educational Services to Students**

- Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Services
  - The school's teachers and leadership team will be supporting social-emotional development in students through weekly IB lessons that encompass social-emotional health
  - Teachers and leadership will also meet with students and families, when needs arise, to support families in matching potential community resources that helps offset needs

- Signs for students to text the national Crisis Text Hotline, will be hung at various points throughout the building
- All staff will be trained to look for and support Homeless Children and Youth through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- Additional Educational Services
  - An array of educational services will be in effect during the school year. Students will receive small group instruction, at instructional level for reading, writing, math
  - Additional full time paraprofessionals will be provided to support interventions where needed

### **Screening and Testing**

Alturas did not employ a diagnostic screening and testing program in the 2020-2021 school year. At this time, we do not feel that this is necessary to maintain in person learning. There were no confirmed cases of student-to-student spread of COVID 19 last year in the Alturas schools. If we experience a significant increase in community transmission and see student to student spread of COVID within our school, then this will be a strategy that will be considered. Screening and testing may be provided as an option to families instead of quarantining following exposure at school.

### **Vaccinations**

To keep staff and students safe, we strongly encourage both employees and eligible students to get the COVID vaccine. Alturas will not require any employees or students to receive the vaccine. Alturas will support the local Health agency's guidelines and efforts for all eligible vaccine recipients. Alturas will provide information from the CDC as well as the Mayo clinic in regards to vaccinations. During the Fall Alturas reached out to Sav-On Pharmacy and asked they come and provide a vaccination clinic to all employees that desire to receive one. In addition to that vaccination clinic, Alturas encourages staff members to receive the booster.

While Alturas will also not assume the role of a public health agency by making efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities, we will support East Idaho Public Health's efforts to do so by informing families of the importance of vaccines as well as information regarding how to become vaccinated and providing use of our facilities as appropriate for vaccination clinics if requested.

### **Facility Modifications**

Classrooms will be arranged to maximize physical distancing between students; however, it will not be possible to always maintain three to six feet of distance between students during instruction. Teachers will be asked to remove unnecessary furnishings and other large items to maximize the opportunity for physical distancing. HEPA air purifiers were purchased and placed in every classroom. In addition to the air filtration systems, each classroom is equipped with multiple sanitation stations.

### **Staff Social Emotional Health**

Alturas' instructional week is a four-day teaching week with Fridays provided for planning and collaboration. In addition to collaboration and planning, these Fridays are also utilized to support teachers and their social needs as many luncheons and different activities are planned so teachers can make positive connections with their colleagues, outside of the classroom.

### **Individuals with disabilities**

Pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Alturas will not discriminate against students or employees with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies in this plan.

Accommodations for students and employees with disabilities may be requested for any provision of this plan. For students with Individual Education Plans under IDEA, the IEP team will evaluate and determine accommodations. For students with 504 plans under Section 504, the multidisciplinary team will evaluate and determine accommodations. Employees should notify the administration team to request accommodations for disabilities or other medical conditions that may prevent them from complying with any provision of this plan.