
Rising to the Challenge

The Sul Ross State University Return to Campus Plan

Alpine Campus



Fall 2020

A Message from the President

These are unprecedented times. Yet, our legally-mandated missions of serving the public, transmitting culture, teaching and training students for professions, and providing for research have not changed. Sul Ross State University will continue to meet its obligations; we will continue to help our students reach their goals and achieve their dreams. In short, we will Rise to the Challenge.



As we move forward, decisions at our university will be guided by and dependent on three core considerations: the health and safety of our campus community, access to education for our students, and personal responsibility by all members of our university family. The health and safety of our university community is paramount. However, the COVID-19 pandemic cannot alter our fundamental belief that a quality education, whether in person or achieved through remote delivery, should be within reach of every Texan who desires it.

We know that the university cannot eliminate all risks. We ask all university members to share the responsibility for vigilance in health and safety of others. Changing conditions locally and across the state will require flexibility, but our bedrock considerations are and will remain constant.

Welcome back to Sul Ross! Know that we will do our part to keep you safe — but we want you to do your part, too. Work or study hard. Stay safe. And, best wishes for a wonderful and successful semester.

- Pete P. Gallego
President, SRSU
Class of 1982





Ours is an open air and living laboratory. We will take full advantage of our wide open spaces and remote location.

Foreword: Adelante into Our Future

Sul Ross State University will continue to deliver on the promise of opportunity for students seeking higher education. Located in Far West Texas in the Chihuahuan Desert/ Trans-Pecos region of Texas, our university holds a significant advantage over institutions with population density. In the wide open spaces of Far West Texas, it is not so difficult to maintain social distancing.

We are particularly proud of our long heritage of small classes, personal attention, and opportunities to experience the natural beauty of the Big Bend/Davis Mountains country of Texas. Ours is an open air and living laboratory for students interested in subjects from business to the sciences and we take full advantage of our location. Our core values include excellence, ethics and integrity, diversity and inclusiveness, growth and exploration, leadership and service, personal connection, and effective communication.

As a center of learning for Far West Texas, we strive to stay current on research and recommendations regarding COVID-19. What we know about the virus changes frequently because our knowledge is constantly supplemented with additional information. This document is intended to provide the latest information available as well as the university's plans to move us cautiously forward into our future.

To best understand how the university community can make a difference for ourselves and others in preventing the spread of the virus, it is imperative to understand what information is available and what guided the formulation of our plans.

The following sources and considerations are the foundational elements of Sul Ross State University's plan:

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- › Guidance from our federal, state, and local government and public health offices and officials;
 - › Documented cases of the virus, especially active cases, in and around Alpine, Texas, and Brewster County, Texas, where our campus is located; and,
 - › The availability of testing from all sources, including governmental and private sources, in the region where our campus is located.

Each of these elements is continually changing. Therefore, flexibility also remains a core ingredient of our plan. We recognize that we must be nimble and agile in reacting to the needs of the university community. As best practices evolve and conditions change, our plan will be dynamic and adjusted to meet new and different circumstances.

While all areas of university operations were asked for input, we would also like to hear from you about ways that we can improve or enhance actions and your safety. You are welcome to submit your questions through our online portal at srinfo.sulross.edu/covid-19.

Sul Ross will be open, ready for students and university personnel, and eager to start the Fall Semester in August as scheduled. Fall class registration is open online, the housing office is accepting applications with general move-in scheduled for August 22, and classes are slated to begin on August 24th. The [academic calendar](#) includes a major change in that face-to-face delivery of courses will end at the Thanksgiving break. All classes subsequent to Thanksgiving will be delivered online.

We will #RiseToThe Challenge and continue to move onward and upward with hope and confidence in the knowledge that our institution continues to forge a path towards a better tomorrow. #AdelanteSRSU!



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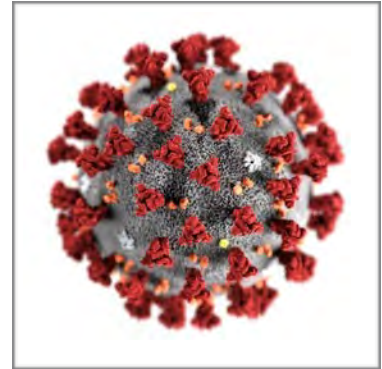
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COVID-19: Important Information for Everyone

Since March, the world has battled an unseen enemy. Doctors and scientists continually learn more about this virus and how it infects people. The collective knowledge from these researchers helps us better understand how to [protect ourselves and others](#) from the spread of the virus.

Research shows that the [COVID-19 virus spreads](#) primarily through person-to-person contact with droplets created when people talk, cough, or sneeze — or any action that discharges particles in the lungs through the mouth and nose. Medical professionals indicate that [pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic](#) people who are infected with COVID-19 may shed the virus to others unknowingly.



Governor Abbott issued an [executive order](#) allowing agencies and business to initiate preventative measures to limit the spread of the virus. To minimize the spread of the virus on our campus, we at Sul Ross ask that you accept personal responsibility for your actions and for the sake of safety, treat others as you would want to be treated by a person who has the virus and is contagious. You would want them to keep their distance, keep their mouth and nose covered, and minimize their interactions with others. Let's give others the same courtesy.

There are everyday precautions each of us can take to prevent the spread. The list below sets forth some examples, but is by no means to be considered as an exclusive list:

- ▶ Always [wear face coverings](#) while on campus. These masks are not optional on our campus. Masks protect others from the potential spread of the virus. Sul Ross State consider wearing a mask as tangible evidence of our commitment to ethics, integrity, personal responsibility, and service.
- ▶ Avoid touching others and keep your distance; [6 feet is optimal](#). This distance minimizes the potential contact with the particles exhaled by other individuals. And yes, we know that Texans pride themselves on warm hospitality and traditional greetings like handshakes and hugs - let's just not do that right now.

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- ▶ [Wash your hands frequently](#) or use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
 - ▶ [Clean and disinfect](#) frequently touched surfaces like your phone, keyboard, doorknobs, toilets, lights, counters, steering wheel, game controllers, etc.

While the primary transmission of the virus occurs from person-to-person contact, transmission may still occur from [touching hard surfaces](#). The virus may live on surfaces for up to 24 hours, and so the need to clean and disinfect remains critical. Information about the efforts the university will take to clean and sanitize surfaces will be referenced in subsequent pages.

COVID-19 remains unpredictable. Many questions still remain about the spread of the virus. To see answers from health experts, go to the Center for Disease Control, ([CDC](#)), World Health Organization ([WHO](#)), and the [Texas Department of State Health Services](#).

It's Our Personal Responsibility

Sul Ross State University believes in the power of both personal accountability and personal responsibility. We all hold the power to make common sense decisions based on our own life experiences and safety needs. We understand that circumstances vary between all members of the university community. We also believe that we have a particular responsibility to the most vulnerable among us.

Students, employees, and visitors must show responsible behavior to limit and reduce the spread of the virus. The key concept is to BACK THE PACK. This means that we must all show responsible behavior and have each other's back by following the everyday prevention methods previously outlined. We are in this together.



Safety Pledge - One University/One Community

As a partner in each campus community the faculty, staff, and students agree to the following statements in relation to the COVID-19 virus.

- ▶ I will wear a face covering, wash my hands, and disinfect my workspaces to protect others from the potential spread of this virus.
- ▶ I promise to follow social distancing guidelines as a way to mitigate the risk of transmission to others both professionally and personally.
- ▶ I will monitor my health and report any potential symptoms or contact.
- ▶ I agree to follow the guidelines set forth in this document or as described by Sul Ross State University to protect the public health.
- ▶ I understand that my actions may impact the larger community and could affect my academic progress or professional attainment at Sul Ross State University.



Failing to meet these expectations may be subject to corrective action under university disciplinary policies. Changes or recommendations to the guidelines based on evolving guidance from federal, state, or local agencies will be communicated to the university community.

Campus Plans

Health and safety, access and education, and personal responsibility remain our guiding principles as Sul Ross readies for and moves through the Fall 2020 semester. Our aim is to ensure that our students remain supported and safe as they work toward their educational goals. With this in mind, every office that works directly with students is expected to develop an operational plan that incorporates our guiding principles into their service structure.



University Readiness

The University has prepared for and plans to remain open for regular business operations throughout the Fall 2020 semester. Due to the fluid nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, agility and flexibility are core parts of our plans. The University must be able to nimbly adapt to any change in circumstances.



While the University may remain open, the numbers of staff members on campus at any given time may be decreased through flexible schedules and opportunities to work remotely. At the discretion of the Administration, some offices may develop staggered work schedules that may include early mornings or late evenings as well as weekend business hours. Note that all university offices will be open during regular business hours. Absent exigent circumstances, offices with single occupancy will remain open during regular business hours.

The University will continually evaluate spaces, provide disinfectant and other protections against the virus, and increase air circulation when possible.

Office Flexibility

With appropriate approval, offices may establish their own individual protocols for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic provided that the protocols conform to this return to campus plan.

In the event staggered work hours are implemented, each office will ensure that their hours are publicly available and widely disseminated if they include availability outside of regular business hours. As schedules are determined in each office, supervisors and department heads shall give consideration and due deference to employees at higher risk for COVID-19 as determined by [CDC guidelines](#).

Supervisors who need assistance to make these determinations may utilize the [decision tree](#) in their assessment. The [Human Resources](#) webpage provides additional information related to employment, telecommuting, and the Families First Coronavirus Act (FFCRA) guidance.

Community COVID-19 Data Participation

Sul Ross is part of the larger Alpine and Brewster County communities. We share statistical data with the city and county and value the data in order to make meaningful decisions. As a state



agency and an institution of learning with scientists on our own staff, it is critical that we collect reliable data.

University employees and students are expected to help monitor COVID-19 as a way to prevent the spread of the virus and protect each other. To accomplish the required data collection, the University asks its community members to take three actions:

1. Keep keep track of their health and track any potential symptoms;
2. Test for the virus when you have potential symptoms or have been in contact with someone who has symptoms; and
3. Trace your steps and keep accurate track of your interactions with others so that contact tracing can, if necessary, be done quickly and efficiently.

Increased Cases and Local Surges

Sul Ross State University continues to monitor reports from the Texas Department of Health Services and track trends in our community. We will follow guidance and orders from the federal, state and/or local levels to assist in the prevention of the spread of the virus. This may include but is not limited to executive orders, local orders, and public health orders.

The university will utilize alternative instructional delivery methods and use restricted operations, if necessary. The university may also implement travel restrictions, when and if warranted.

All of these things can be avoided through simple precautions like hand washing, social distancing, and the use of face coverings as everyday methods to prevent the spread. There is no scientific dispute that people can carry the virus without symptoms for at least three days before they begin to show illness. During this time, they are actively contagious. Therefore, people may spread the virus unknowingly. For that reason, the University will be vigilant in doing all it can to minimize the spread of the virus.



Facility Preparedness

Facilities in General

Our Physical Plant staff has worked diligently to prepare spaces for the Fall 2020 semester. Furniture has already been moved or rearranged in classrooms and other spaces to reduce capacity by 50% and to allow for social distancing. Social distance requirements will apply in both instructional and student service areas.

Staff may submit work orders to rearrange additional furniture in any other spaces as appropriate to promote social distancing. Gatherings in excess of the number of maximum participants as provided by the most recent public health order are prohibited unless specifically authorized. Modification to the following areas have been prioritized as part of this return to campus plan.

- (1) Instructional facilities including classrooms and labs;
- (2) Student service areas including but not limited to advising, tutoring, and academic support areas;
- (3) Administrative office spaces specific to student needs;
- (4) Dining halls and community areas to limit the number of occupants at each table or station; and
- (5) Meeting and event spaces to allow for social distancing and limit gathering space.

Some spaces, such as single occupancy offices or shared offices where staggered work schedules occur, will not need modification.

In contrast, high traffic areas where social distancing presents challenges will see additional precautions taken. Sneeze guards, face shields, and additional ventilation are examples of such precautions.

Recreational Facilities

Recreational facilities including gyms and fields with spectator stands are being deep cleaned prior to the arrival of students. Each facility will develop and display operating procedures in prominent location to assure that university community members have access to the disinfection and sanitization plans. Building managers will work with the physical plant staff to develop a cleaning schedule.

Areas to be addressed in the facility operating procedures include:

- › Personal protection equipment (PPE) use and availability and sanitization stations;
- › Required facility entrances and exits for building usage;
- › Signage with guidance and protocols;
- › Published operating hours;
- › Group gatherings and locker room requirements; and
- › Maximum occupancies for fitness and strength/conditioning use.

Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Systems

Although HVAC equipment is not currently believed to cause transmission of viruses, the Physical Plant staff will continually evaluate the current systems for optimal performance. Chillers and boilers on the Alpine campus pull in fresh air to cool and heat the buildings. The Agriculture and Natural Resource Science (ANRS) buildings have their own HVAC system and will implement additional sanitation protocol.

Campus Pedestrian Traffic

University employees, students, and visitors will enter and exit through pre-determined doors. Complying with these designated entrances and exits is mandatory. Traffic patterns are designed to minimize the danger of contagion.



Once you have accomplished your task, please leave the area immediately.

People will not be permitted to congregate in hallways, stairwells, or classrooms spaces.

Elevators

No more than two people may ride the elevator at any given time. If there are two individuals in an elevator, they should social distance and not face each other. Employees, students and visitors are encouraged to use stairs where possible and avoid elevators. Use of handrails should be limited unless necessary and people should wash their hands or use hand sanitizer after touching high traffic surfaces.



Faculty and Staff

Expectations of Employees

All University employees must commit to following the guidelines and take the following actions designed to maximize their personal safety and the safety of others:

- ▶ Maintain social distance from others, report illness to their supervisor, and stay home when necessary.
- ▶ Utilize markings on floors to limit closeness, increase use of virtual meetings (regardless of meeting location on or off campus), and if necessary, rearrange furniture to increase space and maximize social distancing.
- ▶ Agree to flexible work schedules to limit the number of employees in one space at one time should flexible work schedules be implemented.
- ▶ Always wear masks while in the office or around others on campus.
- ▶ Maintain social distancing in hallways and restrooms.

Regardless of employee's location on or off campus, they should remain aware of the potential for exposure to the virus. Employees should use common sense and personal judgment about the safety and security of their well-being on or off campus. Sul Ross will continue to promote personal responsibility but encourages all members of the university community to consider the health and well-being of others in their everyday interactions.

Employee Workspaces

Everyday university operations will require changes to address the ongoing concerns and risks associated with COVID-19. Employees working on campus will be required to take the following actions as daily precautions in our continuing fight against the spread of the virus. Supervisors should find a prominent location to display a document that includes the following information.

- ▶ Employees must self-monitor their health with the HR [daily selfassessment](#).
- ▶ Employees must adhere to temperature checks when feeling ill and be prepared to go home if temperature is elevated above 100 degrees.

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- › Supervisors will immediately send home any employee who develops preliminary symptoms of COVID-19 and provide further instructions to employees who develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19.
 - › Face coverings may be removed for eating and drinking or when employees are separated by permanent barriers. However, employees must wear face coverings when people are within six (6) feet of their personal workspaces.
 - › Employees agree to follow the One University, One Community Safety Pledge which is to be prominently displayed in each office.
 - › Offices will maintain a visitor login sheet at each front area as a means of contact tracing for potential cases.
 - › Each office will develop specific procedures for high touch areas like login sheets, copiers, phones, or office supplies.
 - › Staff meetings in each office should include reminders about health and safety both at the workplace and off campus.
 - › Supervisors will develop any additional department-specific guidelines to maintain a healthy and safe environment. Offices are encouraged to gather waste and wipe down workspaces at the end of each day to limit exposure/danger to our custodial staff.



Face Coverings

SRSU has previously provided re-usable branded face coverings to all employees. Wearing of a face covering is mandatory. Employees should wash all face coverings at the end of each day to rid the covering of any contaminants. Additional branded face coverings are available through the Alumni Relations Office. Departments may choose to order branded face coverings with available department funds for promotional and marketing activities. Departments should ensure that current and approved [logos and graphics](#) are used for promotional products.

Departmental Supplies and Facility Modifications

Departments may reorder cleaning/disinfecting supplies through the [Sul Ross General Store](#) or by submitting a [workorder](#). Modifications for room configurations or removal of furniture is managed through the Sul Ross Physical Plant and may be submitted through a [work order](#).

Academic Affairs

The 2020-2021 Academic Year will include face-to-face instructional delivery with the ability to quickly pivot to online/remote delivery in the event it becomes necessary. The summer class structure provided Sul Ross with the opportunity to refine remote delivery methods and identify areas for improvement. The University faculty stand ready to adjust their delivery method to accommodate the changing pandemic conditions. In all plans, the university follows the three guiding principles of health and safety, education and access, and personal responsibility to make decisions.

As previously stated, face-to-face instruction will resume for the Fall Semester with certain limitations for class size, location of classrooms, and some protocols. The following areas encapsulate the various decisions related to instructional delivery and classroom expectations.



Class Size Limitations

All classrooms have been reduced to 50% capacity and classes have been capped to limit the number of students in each course. Academic departments may offer more sections of classes only if necessary and appropriate to accommodate the small class sizes.



Classrooms and Lab Spaces

Classrooms and lab spaces will be rearranged to allow for students and faculty to satisfy social distancing requirements. Seating configuration will allow for social distancing separation to reduce the risk to public health. Changes this year include:

- › Seating will be assigned in each class to allow for easier contact tracing should the contact tracing become necessary.
- › Classes will be staggered with additional time allowed between the end of one class and the beginning of another.
- › During the additional time provided, both incoming and outgoing faculty members and students are expected to sanitize their desks, chairs or other y have occupied. Cleaning by both outgoing and incoming individuals minimize the risk of any contagion.
- › Classrooms will house disinfecting wipes and spray for use by students and faculty to wipe down these spaces between classes. The university needs everyone's help to protect others from the spread of the virus.
- › Courses with labs will be front loaded with practical work beginning at the start of the semester.
- › Sanitization stations have placed at the entrances and exits to all buildings.
- › Students and faculty entering buildings will be asked to respect the flow of foot traffic and to enter and exit buildings and classrooms through designated areas.
- › Students and faculty will be required to wear face masks while in enclosed spaces for classes and labs, particularly if they are unable to social distance.
- › Small seminar classrooms have been removed from the inventory of available space due to social distancing requirements.
- › Outside classrooms will be used where available and appropriate.
- › Classrooms will be inventoried for capacity, technology, and suitability and retained by the Registrar for assignment of spaces.
- › Reminders for social distancing and everyday tips to prevent the spread of the virus have been posted throughout campus..
- › University travel for course requirements will be limited to critical requirements only.

Instructional Technology

The Office of Information Technology began assessing remote delivery methods during the summer months. Classrooms with outdated equipment or non-functional distance education equipment will be given priority to increase the number of classrooms with remote capability. The technology enhancements will allow faculty to develop hybrid courses in anticipation of the move toward remote delivery at the end of the fall semester.

Classroom Mixed Methods for Instructional Models

The faculty of Sul Ross State University are committed to providing a quality educational experience to all students whether face-to-face or through remote delivery.

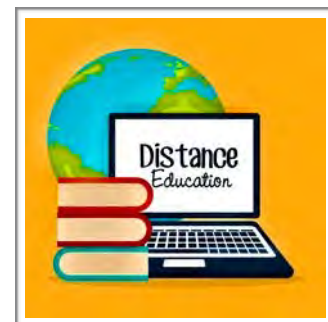
All faculty will develop mixed methods of course delivery that incorporates the ability to simultaneously offer online/televideo and face-to-face instruction. As a small university, we pride ourselves on our small class size and hands-on experience, but we understand that necessity trumps tradition. However, we also believe in innovation and creativity. Our faculty have been given license to take their classes to outdoor spaces, larger arenas, and virtual formats when traditional methods need improvement.

Instructors will be required to participate in Blackboard training for certification to teach online. This certification program ensures that all faculty are prepared and ready to use best practices for remote and online course delivery.

Additionally, faculty will work collaboratively with their colleagues to establish a “back-up” faculty member who can step in, if needed, to complete the course if the primary instructor is unable to complete the semester.

Distance Education Fees

Students enrolled in distance education classes will be charged the regular rate for those courses. If the university must pivot due to circumstances related to the virus, students in traditional face-to-face classes will not be charged an additional distance education fee for the duration of the remote delivery.



Commencement

The University recognizes the importance of the milestone celebration marking the achievement of students and families for college graduation. We recognize that the spring commencement cancellation dealt a tremendous disappointment to many graduates.

We continue plans to hold a Fall 2020 commencement ceremony and hope to include those who graduated in the Spring of 2020. Since the university will discontinue face-to-face instruction following the Thanksgiving break, the university is exploring early graduation activities for students who are verified for graduation.



Students and Student Life

The experience of college life at Sul Ross is an essential part of a student's growth. We also understand that. Our campus contains its own culture and holds activities that make the Sul Ross college experience unique. We are continuously working to provide a healthy and excellent educational and recreational experience for our students.

Important Dates and Information

Residential students will move onto campus beginning Saturday, August 22, 2020. The first day of classes is Monday, August 24, 2020. Students must make arrangements with the housing office to check out by Tuesday, November 24, 2020. Residential students will be charged rent for the period that they check in until they check out of the residence halls.

Note that the Sul Ross [Academic Calendar](#) includes a significant change in to the normal schedule. After the Thanksgiving break, all classes will be delivered remotely. Classes will be delivered remotely. Students will not return after the break for the final two weeks of the semester. The last in-person class day will be Friday, November 20, 2020. Final exams will be administered beginning Friday, December 4, 2020.

While attending Sul Ross, students are expected to follow the One University, One Community Safety Pledge to promote health and safety at Sul Ross. In addition, note that local government health orders apply on campus and the university will follow and enforce those orders within the Lobo student community.

Residential Life and Housing

The Office of Residential Living on the Sul Ross campus supports healthy and safe living conditions. The staff continue to monitor local conditions to assess plans for the Fall 2020 move-in schedule. We are making plans to welcome our new Lobo residents beginning August 23, 2020. To prepare for the influx of residents, we will use best practices based on [CDC considerations](#) and [available research](#).

Residential students will be assigned residence halls based on availability. Sul Ross State University believes in the importance of on campus living for first-year students and will not waive the current residency requirement but will reserve the right based on extraordinary circumstances.

No social gatherings exceeding the allowed number of individuals are allowed in the residence halls. The use of face coverings and social distancing will be strictly enforced in common areas such as lounges, hallways, or stair wells.



August 22nd - Move-In Schedule

The move-in process will be pre-arranged by residential living staff for each individual resident to allow for social distancing and to limit the number of people in a facility at any given time. Students will be notified via their SRSU email address of their assigned move-in day and time. Please work within the day and time assigned for move-in. If there is an extenuating circumstance that makes the assigned time unfeasible, please email reslife@sulross.edu with details as soon as you identify the concern.

Each resident will be limited to two helpers during their scheduled move-in time. Face coverings will be required, along with social distancing and frequent hand washing. We are asking that residents limit the number of items and belongings that they bring to on-campus housing this year due to COVID-19. Minimizing the number of items a student brings will make the student more nimble in the event of a change in local circumstances. Residents should also note that bringing additional furniture is against University policy.

Students have been asked to voluntarily quarantine themselves for 14 days prior to their arrival. Upon arrival, students should also be prepared for a potential temperature and/ or related health screening. If a student has tested positive for COVID-19, been in contact with someone who is positive for COVID-19, or is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 within 14 days of planned check-in, please contact reslife@sulross.edu to explain the situation. If one of the aforementioned scenarios

applies, residents may be asked to delay their arrival to campus. The Office of Residential Living will honor each reservation until a full recovery occurs and the resident is able to safely return to campus with the proper medical release.

Visitors in University Housing and Travel by Residents

Students living in Lobo Village Buildings 1 and 2 are not be permitted to accommodate overnight visitors per the current housing agreement. Family housing units are not subject to the same restrictions, but the university **strongly discourages** overnight visitors in any on-campus housing facility.

The University also strongly discourages students from leaving the university area during the semester so as to limit potential student exposure to COVID-19.

Buddy System/Lobo Life

The Office of Residential Living is implementing a modified buddy system this year in order to make people feel safer and facilitate online group activities and social interaction.

Students should receive a card at registration or on arrival informing them who their “buddy” is and asking about their favorite hobbies and activities.

The Campus Activities Office will then group people together on social media using the information on the card. Should you opt in, you can expect to be part of several Snapchat, Instagram, or other groups while you are a student here. The Campus Activities Office will also facilitate online activities and social interaction.

In addition, we continue to plan for in-person events for the Fall 2020 semester, understanding that we will still comply with local health and safety instructions regarding COVID-19. We also understand that we may need to cancel unexpectedly in the event of a sudden and significant surge in cases.

Students can expect to see limited capacity for gatherings including student organization meetings, intramural sports activities, study sessions, and class lectures.

Protecting the Lobo Pack - Our Lobo Family

Sul Ross State University personnel take student health very seriously. We will provide resources, health protocols, and guidance to both on and off-campus residents. We know that student contacts are not limited to their residence halls and expect all students to take appropriate precautions to prevent the spread of viruses.

A reminder:

- › We believe in personal responsibility which means that we must all wash our hands, keep our distance, and wear face coverings when in public as everyday measures to protect ourselves and our Lobo Family.
- › Common areas may be restricted until further notice and social gatherings in residence halls will not be permitted so as to prevent the spread of the virus.
- › Only two people may ride an elevator at one time. Students are encouraged to take the stairs when possible.

For specific information related to health and safety in our residence halls, visit the [Sul Ross housing website](#).

Health and Wellness

The University will continue to offer limited medical services to faculty, staff and students. This includes counseling services provided by mental health professionals. Counseling Services are confidential and free on the [Alpine](#) campus.

[Health services](#) are available to students as part of the Medical Services Fee. Our campus nurse will refer students to medical professionals when appropriate. Sul Ross State University contracts with the [Preventative Care Health Services](#) (PCHS) clinic as our university medical provider.



Dining Hall Preparations

Aramark is responsible for operating our campus dining facilities in the Morgan University Center. The dining has been operating in a limited capacity since March of 2020. Since that time, our food preparation teams have continued to tweak systems to prepare to serve everyone on campus.

During the upcoming semester, the dining hall in the University Center will observe the following hours:

Breakfast	7:00-9:00
Lunch	11:00-1:30
Dinner	5:00-7:30



Since the pandemic began, ARAMARK has diligently worked with the University to continue services while improving safety. ARAMARK has taken the following actions:

- › Barriers and social distancing signage have been installed to control lines;
- › Menu items have been adapted to accommodate to-go and delivery;
- › Menus, maps and other signage has been installed at the entrance to the dining facilities;
- › Mandatory health check screenings are conducted for every employee at the beginning of each shift; and
- › Employees have been provided with flexible and layered protective equipment for use while serving food.

In partnership with Aramark, the University has also modified and marked the dining areas for social distancing as well as outfitted the appropriate areas with sneeze-guards. Seating capacity has been limited to 50% of occupancy. All visitors must wear a mask until they sit down to eat. Upon finishing their meal, visitors are asked to put on their mask and exit the building.

Both ARAMARK and the University continue to adjust to the changing environment and follow best practices and the latest public health directives to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Sul Ross University Bookstore

Sul Ross has a wonderful and well-stocked bookstore located in the Morgan University Center adjacent to the dining hall. The bookstore will be open and operational but will also follow strict social distancing guidelines; only 15 people at a time will be allowed into the bookstore. All customers will be directed to follow the designated distance markings on the floor. Lastly, staff will pull the textbooks off the shelves for the customers.

If you have questions or need assistance with textbooks, please use the university [bookstore's website](#).

Lobo Sports

Sul Ross competes in 13 intercollegiate athletics sports programs, including college rodeo. We are a member of the [National Collegiate Athletic Association](#) (NCAA) and the [American Southwest Conference](#) (ASC) in addition to being the birthplace and a founding member of the [National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association](#) (NIRA).

Our athletic director, coaches, and training staff continue to receive guidance from each organization with respect to scheduling, travel, strength and conditioning, and training. Each sport will resume activities in phases as permitted by national and regional athletics governing bodies. The

University will comply with mandates from each governing body and will publish updates on the [Sul Ross Lobos](#) website.

Already, Sul Ross is postponing the 2020 fall sports season to the spring 2021 semester following the American Southwest Conference's suspension of all NCAA athletics due to the ongoing pandemic. The delay includes the fall sports of cross country, football, soccer, and volleyball.

Dealing with COVID-19 Cases on Campus

The University is making every effort to keep COVID-19 away from campus. The University will strictly enforce its COVID-19 policies in an all-out effort to keep the virus off campus. However, judging from efforts by other organizations such as the National Basketball Association (NBA) and others, it will be nearly impossible to do so.

In the event COVID-19 cases reach our campus during this semester, the University is implementing standardized reporting procedures.

What Should Be Reported

Employees who suspect they have been exposed to COVID-19 while away from the university are required to notify their supervisor and the President's Office. Such employees may be required to self-quarantine based on their medical professional's directive or consistent with current CDC and state guidance. The currently accepted quarantine period is 14 days.

If the student believes they may have been exposed to the virus, they must immediately report this potential exposure to their residential assistant or the Office of Residential Living if they live on campus or to the Office of the Dean of Students if they do not. For campus housing residents, the resident assistant will immediately forward the student's report to the Dean of Student's office. The Dean of Students may require the student to self-quarantine for 14 days. If so, the Dean of Students shall immediately notify the appropriate faculty members and assist the student in making alternative arrangements for keeping up with class lectures and assignments.



A student who begins to show any of the symptoms which may preliminarily indicate potential COVID-19 infection shall also immediately report their symptoms to their resident assistant if the student lives in University housing or to the Office of the Dean of Students if the student lives off of campus. For campus housing residents, the resident assistant will immediately forward the student's report to the Dean of Student's office. The student will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days or

until test results are negative, whichever occurs first. Once the student is quarantined, the Dean of Students shall immediately notify the appropriate faculty members and assist the student in making alternative arrangements for keeping up with class lectures and assignments.

Testing

Students who begin to show any of the symptoms which may preliminarily indicate potential COVID-19 infection must immediately make arrangements for testing. The student shall remain in quarantine pending the receipt of negative test results or the passage of 14 days from the onset of symptoms, whichever occurs first.

If an individual receives positive test results, they must self-quarantine for 14 days from the onset of symptoms. If the individual is asymptomatic, they must self-quarantine from the date of exposure as well.

Quarantine and Quarantine Assistance

Before returning to campus for the Fall 2020 semester, all students are asked to self-quarantine for the 14 days immediately prior to their arrival on campus. This applies to all students, including undergraduate and graduate, on-campus and off-campus residents, and new, returning or transfer students. Upon arrival on campus, students will be asked whether they complied with the quarantine. That information will then be maintained by the Office of the Dean of Students.

Once the semester begins, if an individual, whether a student or employee, is self-quarantined and needs assistance with supplies or groceries, they may call the

University Police

Department and sign up to participate in the Lobo Delivery Program. Meal delivery service will be available, if required.



Supplemental housing will also be available as needed for quarantine purposes by the through Office of Residential Living. Allocation of this housing shall be done by the Office of Residential Living living with assistance from the university nurse and with the approval of the Dean of Students.

A team of volunteer faculty and staff members and students will support individuals in quarantine through regular phone calls, errands, and groceries and meal delivery.

Please note that all University community members, whether in or not in quarantine, are expected to follow CDC guidelines.

Contact Tracing

The Office of the Dean of Students, with assistance from the University Police Department, shall be primarily responsible for contact tracing efforts on campus. The Dean of Students may, at her discretion, also engage other offices in these efforts. All students and employees who suspect they have COVID-19, are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, or have tested positive for COVID-19 are expected to fully cooperate with contact tracing efforts.

Disinfection Following a Positive Test Result

If and when a person receives a positive test result for COVID-19, the University will deploy a disinfection and cleaning team to sanitize the space for future use. University spaces where a potential exposure has occurred may be temporarily closed for cleaning. This may result in alternative arrangements for classes, events, meetings, or housing.

The disinfection process will take place whenever a person with COVID-19 has spent time on the University campus from 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms to one week after the person passed through a university area.

Administrative Policies

Prevention-Based Decision Making

Based on guidance from federal, state, and local health officials, SRSU may take additional actions to prevent the spread of the virus. Actions may include disinfecting areas using new and different disinfection products or finding different ways to promote social distancing.

The University will provide disinfection products and personal protection equipment to front-line staff in acting in the course and scope of their employment. Additionally, we will take precautions and use care with disinfection products to accommodate students and employees with allergies. If an individual experiences discomfort or an allergic reaction and believes it to be from one of the cleaning products, immediately report that incident to the Physical Plant office at 432.837.8085 or send an [online suggestion](#).

There have been minimal reports of the disinfection products causing irritation. The items being used to clean can be found [here](#). If individuals have a reaction, professors and supervisors have been directed to make accommodations.

The Environmental Protection Agency has provided a list of [recommended cleaning and disinfectant](#) agents for use against the COVID-19 virus.

University Travel

University-sponsored student and employee business travel will be limited to missioncritical functions in order to assure the continued safety of the campus community. Students traveling on University-related business will receive specific guidelines for their trip.

If University vehicle is used, it should be wiped down with disinfecting products before the vehicle is returned to the motor pool. Disinfecting products will be provided in each vehicle.

The University motor pool reserves the right to change the assigned vehicle or to increase or decrease number of vehicles available for approved travel based on the number of occupants.

Lastly, all study abroad programs are cancelled until further notice. Student travel will be limited by program of study and will occur when possible under specific guidelines.

All activities must adhere to local and state health orders.

Campus Visitors

Sul Ross State University will limit external guests to on campus to those considered critical to the mission of the university or as approved by university leadership. All visitors will be required to follow safety protocols including social distancing, hand washing or use of hand sanitizer, no physical touching including handshakes or hugs, and the use of a face covering while on campus and around others.

Visitors will be required to wear a mask and may be asked to submit to a temperature check and/or to confirm that they do not have COVID-19 symptoms or have not been in the presence of anyone with COVID-19 symptoms in the last 14 days. They may also be required to agree to additional [screening protocols](#) before being permitted entrance onto University property.



The Office of the Executive Vice President for Strategic Engagement and/or the Athletics Department will provide additional details for potential students and families who plan to visit the campus. Visitors will be limited to appointment only and should understand that they may not have full access to all buildings or facilities.

Use of Facilities by External Groups

Facility usage by external groups must be pre-approved through the established approval process. The University will approve events or functions that enhance or advance the University's core mission.

Event organizers will be required to follow all safety and health protocols based on orders from federal, state, or local officials. However, note that all events are subject to cancellation due to pandemic conditions on campus or in the local area. In the event of cancellation, any facility deposit made will be refunded. All event attendees and visitors must also agree to additional [screening protocols](#) before being permitted entrance onto University property.

Our Campus Community

Wildenthal Memorial Library

The library has taken proper precautions to address safety concerns including additional hand sanitizer availability, sneeze guards, and mask requirements. Seating has been spread out to encourage social distancing. Furthermore, the library already has multiple tools to service students, faculty, and the community [remotely](#).

Museum of the Big Bend

The Museum of the Big Bend is open during regular business hours during the work week but is currently closed on weekends. Further information on the Museum is available online via their [website](#). At minimum, the Museum will follow guidance from local agencies for social distancing and capacity limits. Face coverings are required to visit the Museum. Sneeze guards and hand sanitizer stations are also currently in place at the entrances.



Sul Ross Daycare Center

Currently, the University's day care center is awaiting instruction from the Governor's office for reopening. Until further guidelines are issued and when the daycare center is allowed to reopen, the university will only admit children of SRSU faculty and staff. At this time, no parents are allowed inside the building. A process will be in place to drop off and pick up children from outside. All children will be monitored when entering the facility and throughout the day.

If children show any symptoms, they will NOT be allowed to enter. Furthermore, in order to keep the center open, if you believe you or your child have potentially been exposed to COVID-19, please do not use the day care center's services.

Documenting Plans/Repository

The Rising to the Challenge: Return to Campus plan includes information provided by all facets of the University but does not include specific details for each department. All departments are required to develop protocols for their specific needs and to submit those protocols for approval. The Sul Ross State University President's Office will serve as the final repository of all departmental plans. Once approved by their department and division heads, offices should send their specific plans and protocols to Michael Pacheco, Chief of Staff, President's Office, by email to michael.pacheco@sulross.edu.

Rising To The Challenge - Adelante

"Adelante" means "forward." Sul Ross State University celebrated 100 years of educational service in June, 2020. We are ready to move forward as we enter our next century of service. In the extraordinary times in which we now live, innovation, creativity, inclusiveness, and compassion are needed.

The success of Sul Ross rests in the determination, grit, and perseverance of our students, faculty, and staff who stand shoulder to shoulder every day to provide opportunities for growth. While this pandemic has changed the way we look at our future, it has not altered our educational mission. We will continue forward working together to provide a healthy and safe environment where safety, education and access drive our decisions, and we each take personal responsibility to better our community.

We are #RisingToTheChallenge! #AdelanteSulRoss!

