

The Weekly Comet Update

From Tom Meyer, Superintendent of the Bellevue Community School District

Believe in the Blue! Believe in Learning! Believe in Bellevue!

District-Wide COVID-19 Information

As we start the school day on Friday (Oct. 2), the Bellevue CSD has the following information to release in regard to COVID-19 for this week and (last week).

Building	Quarantine Students
Elementary	13 (10)
MS/HS	*14 (49)
District Total	27 (59)

*<6 of the students in the MS/HS total are in MS.

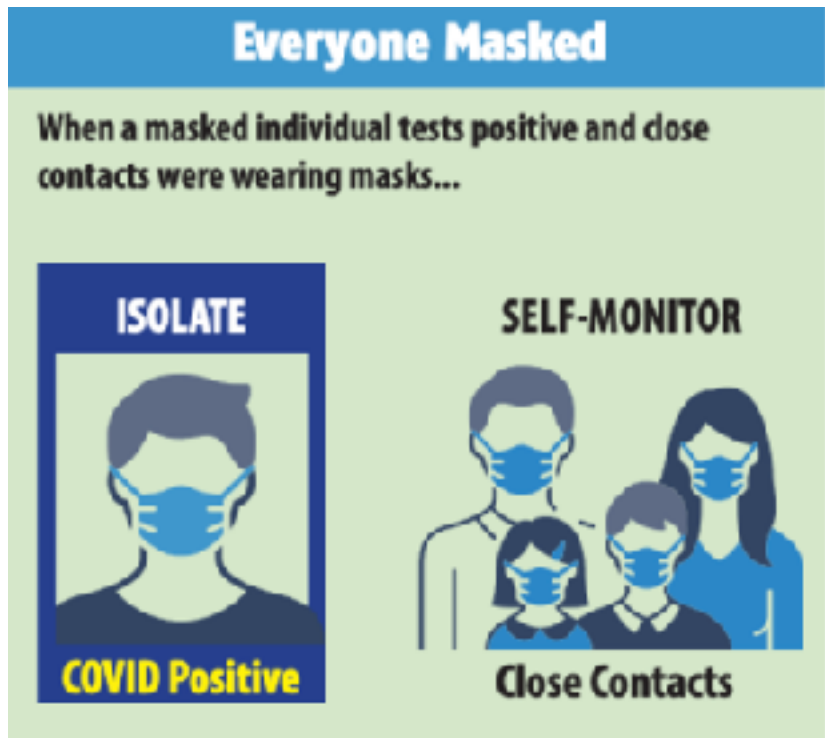
Total Positive Test numbers for the school year for students in the elementary is <6, while the MS/HS has a total of 12 (total last week was 10).

Below is information on wearing a mask correctly, in order for it to have its most effective use.



Update on Quarantine and Masks from the Iowa Department of Public Health

Below is updated information released by the Iowa Department of Health and discussed by Governor Reynolds on Tuesday, September 29 in regard to quarantine. While this impacts the Bellevue CSD in some manners, with our desks 6-feet apart in most cases this does not have a dramatic impact in our school buildings. As a reminder, our students and staff are **required** to wear masks/face coverings whenever they are within 6-feet of others in the building. Some areas where this is typical is in the hallways, standing in line, and times when they are working closely with other students and are wearing their mask properly.



When everyone is masked when social distancing cannot take place the need to quarantine is significantly decreased. The more our district can follow these guidelines, the better it will be for overall student attendance at school in a face-to-face format.

Close Contacts Masked

When an unmasked individual tests positive and close contacts were wearing masks...



Regardless of our vantage point or perspective, we must continue to move forward and do the things that are recommended by experts to mitigate and eliminate COVID-19 in our community and beyond. From a school perspective, it is as simple as this: If we want our students to stay in school, we need to make sure that our students and community members are following the guidance of medical professionals at the CDC, the Iowa Department of Public Health, and other professional organizations.



No One Masked

When an unmasked individual tests positive and close contacts were NOT wearing masks...



Some Close Contacts Masked

When a masked individual tests positive and SOME close contacts were wearing masks...



The Iowa Department of Education has clearly stated that school buildings may be recommended to move to required remote learning when there is a COVID-19 testing positivity rate of 15-20% or higher over 14 days in the county (currently Jackson County is at 12.5%), along with a 10% absenteeism rate for those expected to be in school (not including students who may be quarantined due to exposure to a student or staff member who has tested positive). I do not want our community or schools to be negatively impacted by either of these numbers or be forced to change our daily in-person learning based on the health of our students and staff.

Social/Large group gatherings have been known to have a detrimental impact on the containment of COVID-19. Please keep this in mind as you make daily decisions, as this impacts schools in our community and beyond.

