

# The Weekly Comet Update

From Tom Meyer, Superintendent of the Bellevue Community School District

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

## All of Us Doing Our Part....School and Beyond

The Bellevue Community School District is requesting each family monitor their children’s health on a daily basis prior to coming to school, including taking their child’s temperature. The Iowa Department of Public Health has recommended that school districts and their stakeholders utilize the following guidelines:

If a student has **ONE of the following symptoms** a student should stay home and are advised to seek an evaluation by a health care provider:

- **New cough**
- **Shortness of Breath or difficulty breathing**
- **New loss of taste or smell**

If a student has **TWO of the following symptoms** a student should stay home and are advised to seek an evaluation by a health care provider:

- **Fever**
- **Headache**
- **Muscle/Body Aches**
- **Fatigue**
- **Sore Throat**
- **Runny Nose**
- **Congestion**
- **Nausea**
- **Vomiting**
- **Diarrhea**

## Update on COVID-19 in the Bellevue Community Schools

In the district's continuing efforts to keep our parents and others aware of the impact of COVID-19 in our schools and being transparent, below is information on the district’s COVID-19 impact on students and staff . The data on the number of students quarantined and learning from home, positive tests, and total absentee rate is included. This data is based on information from the end of the day on 9.24.20 and includes information for the school year.

### Some specifics of the data:

*\*The Iowa Department of Education does not include any students who are quarantined as part of the absentee rate as they are able to meet virtually with their classroom teacher(s) during the school day.*

*\*The Iowa Department of Education and the Iowa Department of Public Health have shared that school districts are not recommended to share school data when the data includes 5 or fewer cases within the school building in order to protect the confidentiality of students in the school building. Therefore, “<6” indicates there are case(s) in the building, but less than a total of six.*

*\*Several members of the volleyball team returned to school today (Friday) from being quarantined. This will lower the quarantined student numbers to below 40.*

*\*Quarantined students are those students who were exposed to someone who tested positive (someone in their family, at school, or other contacts), and are required to not be in school for 14 days since their last contact with the individual. We currently have nearly 30 football players who are in quarantine until Friday, October 2 when they will return to school.*

<b><u>Building</u></b>	<b><u>Quarantined</u></b>	<b><u>Positive Tests</u></b>	<b><u>Absent Rate</u></b>
Bellevue Elem	10	<6	1.7%
Bellevue MS/HS.	49*	10*	3.7%
District Total.	59	—	2.7%

*\*Two of these students were at the MS level; Zero students quarantined, were at the MS level.*

*Additionally, the absentee rate is “normal” for this time of the school year.*

Jackson County Positivity Rate as of September 24 - 13.1% (21st highest in the state - out of 99 counties). Beyond Bellevue, the state rate for Iowa is showing a “negative trend” overall, as over the past week there have been an average of 884 cases per day, an increase of 21% from the percent from the average two weeks earlier.

