

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 - January 7, 2021

The positivity rate for COVID-19 in Jackson County has decreased significantly since November. From over 30%, we did drop as a county to 9.4% about a week ago. But...the number has been going up recently in the county and is 13.8% at this time (15% was at one time viewed as extremely concerning at the state level when the school year started).

Fortunately, the number of students and staff in quarantine and testing positive has significantly decreased since Thanksgiving Break in our district buildings. At this time, we have <6 active cases in our entire district (recognize we cannot disclose a number that is less than six based on confidentiality guidelines), although we do have some students who are in quarantine due to family members being positive or being exposed in some other environment.

Continuing on With the Process of Mitigation

The district is not lessening any of our mitigation strategies, and are maintaining our standards. Some of these include the following:

1. Wear a mask in the building when 6-foot social distancing cannot be maintained. Rooms are still spaced out by 6-foot in most cases.
2. Washing hands and using hand sanitizer in school regularly.
3. Masks are required at ALL events for spectators, and participants on the bench.
4. Attendance at events is limited at this time to immediate family members of the participant only (note this may change again in the future based on the orders of Governor Reynolds).

Continuing the School Year with Students

Happy New Year! The Bellevue CSD began the 2nd semester for students on Tuesday, and we are excited for this upcoming semester as we move through Winter, enter Spring, and then prepare for Summer and all of its activities in Bellevue and beyond.

The first semester has been "different" to say the least! But, we have maintained a positive face-to-face learning environment for our students, staff, and community. It has been inspiring to hear our teachers say how much they appreciate being in an environment where students are allowed to attend school every day. We have had some bumps in the road with student and staff absences from positive COVID-19 testing, along with various students being quarantined throughout the school year.

My Mask Protects YOU

Your Mask Protects ME



SAVE Extension on March 2

The Bellevue Community School District will be conducting a special election on Tuesday, March 2 to reauthorize our current Revenue Purpose Statement for SAVE funds (Secure an Advanced Vision for Education). The current statement will expire January 1, 2031 for all school districts in the state, as a result of the 2019 Iowa Legislature extending the use of revenue from the SAVE (sales tax) through January 1, 2051.

As a result of the extension, voters in each school district will have an election to authorize the school board how best to spend this revenue beyond January 1, 2031. The Revenue Purpose Statement does NOT increase anyone's taxes. The Revenue Purpose Statement allows the voters of the district to authorize and direct the local school board to spend their share of the revenue generated from the sales tax funds collected across the state.

At a time when the pandemic has had an impact on various entities in the community, area, state, and beyond, this is simply a vote to approve the SAVE Funds to be utilized by the school district. It is not asking for more money. It is not raising taxes. It is not a new expenditure. Simply put, it is a common ballot item that must be approved by 50% (plus-one) voters in our school district to allow the district to have the authority to utilize the money.

