



BELLEVUE COMETS
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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To: Bellevue Community School District Parents, Students, and Community Members
From: Tom Meyer, Superintendent of Schools
Re: Neck Gaiters
Date: November 3, 2020

The Bellevue Community School District continues to recognize the impact of COVID-19 on our school system and community as a whole. **The Jackson County Positivity Rate for COVID-19 is 25.9%, which is the highest rate in the state.** We must all work together to lower this rate, keep our students and staff safe, and ultimately continue in our face-to-face learning environment.

Additionally, the district is continually evaluating the health and safety situations in our schools and making needed adjustments based on professional health guidance. One change at this time based on recent guidance is the aspect of neck gaiters and their proper use to mitigate COVID-19 effectively. While masks are still the most prevalent and most widely accepted face covering, neck gaiters can be utilized IF they are either made with two layers of cloth or folded in order to make two layers that cover the mouth and nose completely (from the nose to the bottom of the chin). See the graphics below for more specific information.

Gaiters & Face Shields	DO choose masks that	DO NOT choose masks that
 <p>Wear a gaiter with two layers, or fold it to make two layers</p>	 <p>Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric</p>	 <p>Are made of fabric that makes it hard to breathe, for example, vinyl</p>
 <p>Caution: Evaluation is ongoing but effectiveness is unknown at this time</p>	 <p>Completely cover your nose and mouth</p>	 <p>Have exhalation valves or vents, which allow virus particles to escape</p>
	 <p>Fit snugly against the sides of your face and don't have gaps</p>	 <p>Are intended for healthcare workers, including N95 respirators or surgical masks</p>

Additionally, if you have questions about a specific neck gaiter or mask, please contact the school nurse in order for an evaluation of the neck gaiter to take place.

Additionally, face shields have been another form of face-covering utilized in the past. Face shields are not allowed in the school system by students except for special circumstances.

For those choosing to wear neck gaiters, the "two-layer" specifics will become effective on Monday, November 9 for all students and staff members. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school/district office at any time.