
The Weekly Comet Update

From Tom Meyer, Superintendent of the Bellevue Community School District

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

A quick update in regard to some new information in a proclamation from Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds in regard to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and some general information from the Bellevue Community School District.

Mask Requirement

- The requirement for all students and staff members to wear a mask when social distancing of 6-feet cannot be maintained is continuing. This includes wearing the mask correctly (covering the nose and mouth). Additionally, this morning the Jackson County Board of Supervisors also approved a face-covering mandate for all indoor settings where close contact (within 6 feet) is expected in the course of operations.
- Wearing a mask is one of the best ways to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 according to multiple professionals in the medical and scientific areas.

Extracurricular Activities

- Middle School sports are postponed at this time through December 10. This specifically includes wrestling and girl's basketball where their seasons are likely over.
- High School sports are still being allowed to continue by the state. Attendance at these events will be limited according to state guidelines, as only two seats will be allowed for any member of a team or group performing at an event. This includes concerts, athletic events, and similar events.

Use of Facilities

- The use of Bellevue Community School District facilities is limited to current students and school activities at this time. The proclamation stated that youth sports below high school would not continue at this time, and the district will not be making facilities available through December 10 at a minimum.

School Year

- At this time, the Bellevue CSD plans to continue in a face-to-face learning environment. This is dependent on being able to appropriately and adequately staff the buildings, transportation services, food service, and other areas. Additionally, we also need to ensure that the spread of COVID-19 is not happening in our school buildings and students are not coming to school if they are ill or showing any symptoms of COVID-19.
- If students are unable to attend school as a result of a positive test or being a close contact with someone who has tested positive, there are online learning opportunities available for them to attend class with their teachers. Contact the school with any issues in regard to this "connection" with the school and your student(s).
- As I have stated in the past, we need your assistance as community members to assist in the mitigation of COVID-19 through your use of a mask, social distancing, and general care and hygiene of yourself. We want to stay in a face-to-face environment...help us with this!

Summary of Enhanced Public Health Measures

Effective Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 12:01 a.m. until Thursday, Dec. 10 at 11:59 p.m.

Mask Use: Indoor spaces open to the public & State executive branch buildings

- Masks required when individuals are within 6 feet of one another for 15 minutes or longer with certain exceptions

Gathering Restrictions: Social, community, business, or leisure gatherings

- No more than 15 people indoors and 30 people outdoors
- These restrictions apply to wedding receptions, family gatherings, conventions, and other nonessential gatherings but do not apply to gatherings that occur during the ordinary course of business or government

Sporting and Recreational Events: Youth and adult group sporting and recreational gathering are prohibited except for high school, college, and professional sports

High School Sports & Extracurriculars: Sporting, recreational, and extracurricular events

- Only two spectators permitted for each high school athlete, performer or competitor, and must wear a mask and maintain 6 feet distance from other spectators
- Students can be closer than six feet and are not required to wear masks

Restaurants and Bars: Restaurant or bar, including a wedding reception venue, winery, brewery, distillery, country club, or other social or fraternal club

- Closed to in-person services at 10:00pm
- No bar seating
- Masks required when not seated (while playing games, dancing, etc.)
- Six feet distancing between groups
- Groups limited to 8 people unless larger group is all same household
- Seated when eating or drinking and limit congregating

Fitness Centers: Fitness centers, health clubs, health spas, gyms

- Group fitness activities are prohibited

Casinos & Gaming Facilities: Masks required except when seated to eat or drink

Closer/Prolonged Contact Establishments: Bowling alleys, pool halls, bingo halls, arcades, indoor playgrounds, children's play centers

- Closed to in-person services at 10:00pm
- Mask required when not seated to eat or drink
- Ensure that groups and individuals are six feet apart at establishment
- Groups limited to eight people unless larger group is all same household

Nonessential/elective surgeries: A hospital must reduce its in-patient, nonessential surgeries to a level that uses at least 50% fewer beds than it did on average during September 2020

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