

11-10-2020 Update:

Bennett Families,

After much discussion at last night's board meeting the board has decided to adopt a **Mask Mandate for Bennett Community Schools starting tomorrow November, 11, 2020**. Adopting this new policy will hopefully allow our school to avoid excluding a large number of students from on-site learning in the future. In situations where both the positive case and the close contact are consistently and correctly wearing masks, close contacts are not required to quarantine. With cases continuing to rise in our area, the school board felt this is necessary to keep our students and staff safe. Students will be required to wear masks on the bus, in the building and when social distancing is not achievable while outdoors. It is expected for students to bring a mask from home. **We will continue with on-site learning for grades Pre K - 2nd at this time**. The board has also committed to weekly virtual special meetings to discuss and review important COVID related topics. As of today, **students currently quarantined in grades 3rd - 6th will return to on-site learning the morning of November 19th**. Any other student currently in quarantine, please contact Nurse Kim if you are unsure of your child's return to learn date.

Have a plan in place if the school needs to teach virtually or if your child needs to be away from school for an extended period of time. Be thinking about childcare and transportation for your child if needed. If we are notified by public health that your child was in close contact with a positive COVID case or if they exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 they will be sent home immediately. It is your responsibility to pick your child up in a timely manner.

We are continuing to not allow visitors into our school building as part of our COVID-19 mitigation efforts. This includes parents dropping off and picking up students and materials. If you need assistance please call the school office at 890-2226 when you arrive and we will bring your student or materials out to you.

Speak with your child about the new mask mandate and the importance of wearing their mask during this time. Also continue to talk about proper hygiene, and social distancing. Take your child's temperature before school and keep them home if they are ill. Another reminder that there is no morning supervision and the front doors do not open until 7:40 AM.

On behalf of the Bennett Community School District we appreciate your support in continuing to keep our community safe in these unprecedented times.

If you have any questions please contact the school office at 890-2228.

Thank you,
Lonnie Luepker, Jeremiah Costello and Nurse Kim

MASK MANDATE:

<https://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/61/covid19/resources/WhenToQuarantine.pdf>

