

## COVID-19 Report and Discussion

*As of Tuesday, January 19, 2021*

### **Attendance Rate Remains Strong**

Attendance remains strong in both our school buildings. This week, as of Tuesday, January 19, our Belmond-Klemme high school had 8 students absent for an absence percentage of 2 percent. Our elementary school also had 8 students missing for a rate of 2 percent.

### **Area Positivity Rates Remain Elevated**

As of Tuesday, January 19, the 14-day positivity rate for COVID-19 in Wright County was holding steady at 15 percent. This is the measure by which schools should decide whether or not to hold classes in school.

North Central Iowa rates have remained elevated since the holiday break but not as high as after the Thanksgiving break.

### **School Personnel to Receive Priority for Vaccinations**

The Centers for Disease Control recommends giving COVID-19 vaccine in phases, which may overlap:

**1a: Healthcare personnel and Long-term care facility residents**

**1b: Frontline essential workers and People age 75 years and older**

Frontline essential workers include fire fighters, police officers, corrections officers, food and agricultural workers, United States Postal Service workers, manufacturing workers, grocery store workers, public transit workers, and those who work in the educational sector (teachers, support staff, and daycare workers.)

**1c: People aged 65 through 74 years and People aged 16 through 64 years with underlying medical conditions and Other essential workers**

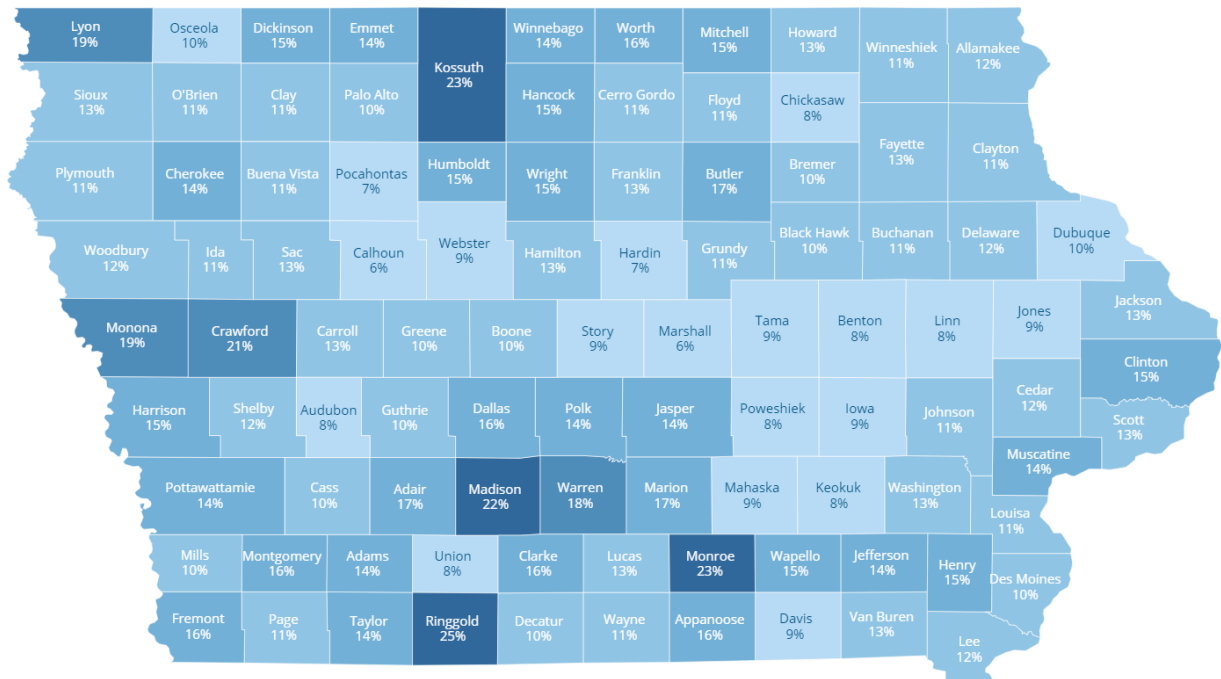
In our initial poll of faculty and staff, 57 responded yes to receiving the vaccine, and 12 said no.

## Current Positivity Rate

As of Tuesday, January 19, 2021, . . .

### COVID-19 in IOWA

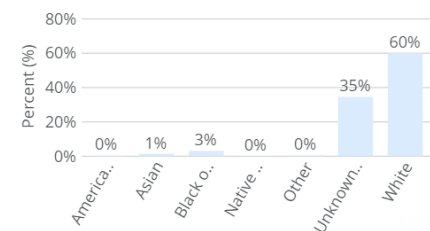
% Positive (Past 14 Day Average) by County



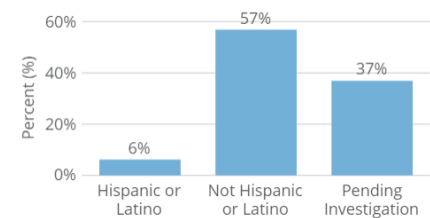
## Wright County Infection Rate

| County      | Positive Cases | Cases Per 100,000 Population |
|-------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Buena Vista | 3,932          | 19,785                       |
| Plymouth    | 3,503          | 13,959                       |
| Crawford    | 2,309          | 13,457                       |
| Henry       | 2,640          | 13,156                       |
| Jones       | 2,707          | 13,050                       |
| Sioux       | 4,547          | 13,025                       |
| Webster     | 4,685          | 12,915                       |
| Wright      | 1,638          | 12,908                       |
| Woodbury    | 12,985         | 12,663                       |
| Carroll     | 2,547          | 12,638                       |
| Calhoun     | 1,221          | 12,589                       |
| Cherokee    | 1,389          | 12,269                       |
| O'Brien     | 1,694          | 12,240                       |
| Hancock     | 1,300          | 12,136                       |
| Emmet       | 1,107          | 11,964                       |
| Dubuque     | 11,365         | 11,734                       |
| Kossuth     | 1,728          | 11,591                       |
| Pocahontas  | 776            | 11,513                       |
| Sac         | 1,112          | 11,442                       |
| Lyon        | 1,350          | 11,430                       |

Positive Cases by Race



Positive Cases by Ethnicity



## **Increased Federal Funding**

Last March, the CARES Act passed Congress and included money for schools. Our Belmond-Klemme allocation was \$124,000. We still have a small portion of this money remaining.

At the end of December, Congress passed another emergency funding measure for schools across the nation. Initial indicators suggest BK should expect more than four-times the amount of last May, or around \$540,815.

We have not yet seen the guidelines, so we do not know what the funds can be used for. However, the CARES funding could be used for very broad purposes, including the following:

- Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity);
- Providing mental health services and supports;
- Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean facilities;
- Training and professional development for staff on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases;
- Providing meals to eligible students;
- Providing technology for online learning to all students;
- Summer learning; and
- Other “unique needs”.

I will have some conversations with our staff to hear what ideas they may have for our funding.

## **Ventilation (HVAC) Systems Upgrades in the Two Buildings**

A very appropriate and accepted use for these federal funds is improving heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems in school buildings.

The automated HVAC system in Jacobson Elementary needs an upgrade. We asked for a proposal to upgrade this system. In their proposal, Trane would install

- Remote service capabilities and Trane Intelligent Services
- Updated web interface without Java graphics issues
- System commissioning to evaluate system performance and identify/recommend improvements
- Replace obsolete system-level controller
- Mobile app allows owner operations staff to easily interact with the control system while working on and troubleshooting equipment or when away from a PC workstation.
- Improved data logging and alarming capabilities
- BACnet compatible system controller allows for migration to current controllers or integration into a 3<sup>rd</sup> party control system.

The cost for this upgrade will be \$25,250.

Also, our elementary and secondary buildings are on two separate and incompatible systems. Trane will install a new Trane controller on our high school system for \$39,100.