

COVID-19 Report and Discussion

Cases at Belmond-Klemme

At this early point in the school year, we have three positive cases, that we know of, to report:

1. Two members of the Bronco football team tested positive for COVID-19 with the results known on Saturday, August 22, 2020. Due to the close proximity of their contact, the entire football team was quarantined for 14 days and returned to action on Tuesday, September 1.
2. On Wednesday, August 26, 2020, we had our first case within our classrooms. A single student tested positive for COVID-19 on the second day of classes on Tuesday, August 25. Due to our careful and compartmentalized instructional delivery system in our high school, exposure was extremely limited and contained, and no other students were considered exposed and removed from our classrooms.
3. On Thursday, September 10, we became aware of our third incident. A student who was present in our secondary school on Tuesday, September 8, tested positive. Upon learning of the positive test, our school immediately implemented diligent contact tracing to find who may have been exposed. Exposure was limited to eight students and two siblings. The exposed students are currently at home, under observation, and continuing their studies online.

We feel like our careful and measured approach to instruction is succeeding despite the continued and broadening spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Transition at High School

As of Thursday afternoon, September 3, our two-week positivity rate in Wright County had fallen to 4.0 percent. We made the decision that starting Tuesday morning after Labor Day, the high school would transition from all online instruction with students in homerooms all day to attending regular classes.

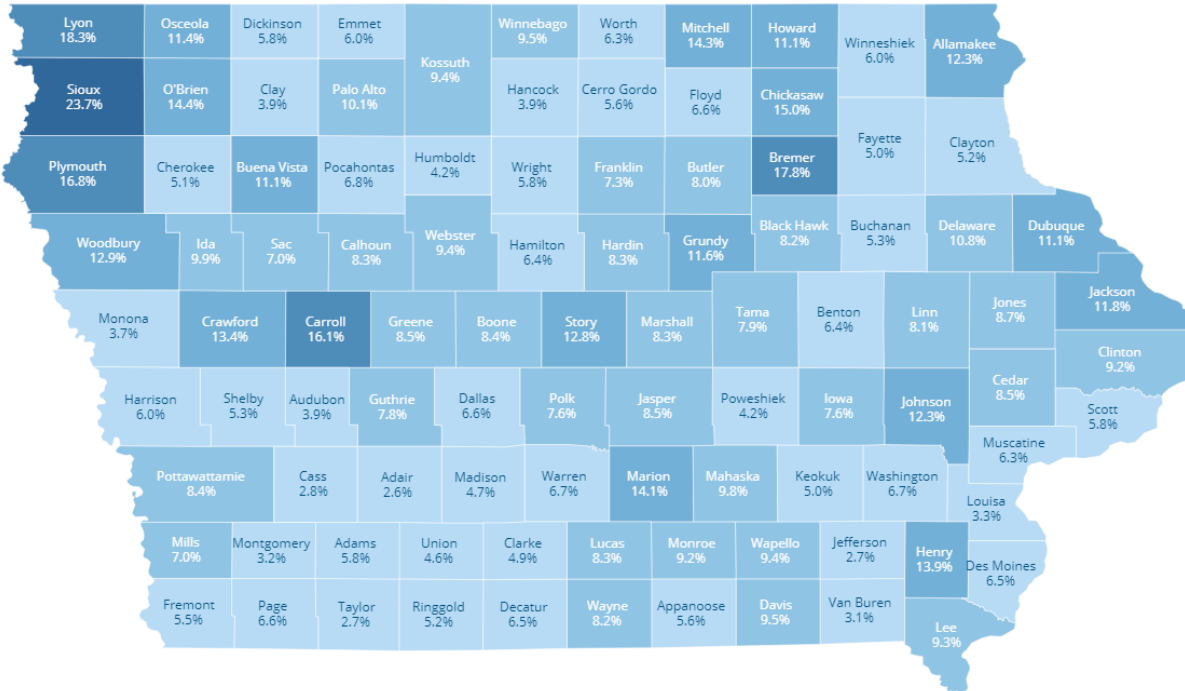
However, the high school remains on the block schedule with four ninety-minute periods on alternating days. So, students will only have three classroom transitions per day, rather than seven.

Current Positivity Rate

As of Monday, September 14, 2020, . . .

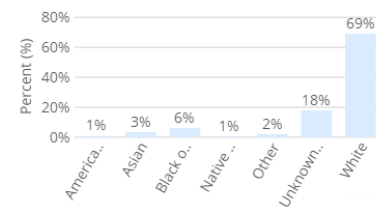
COVID-19 in IOWA

% Positive (Past 14 Day Average) by County

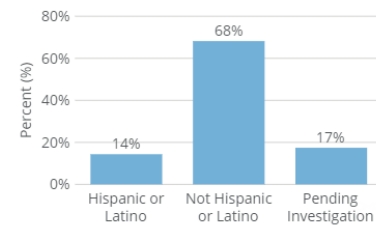


County	Positive Cases	Cases Per 100,000 Population
Buena Vista	1,899	9,555
Crawford	910	5,304
Woodbury	4,571	4,458
Marshall	1,741	4,355
Wright	540	4,255
Tama	673	3,981
Plymouth	927	3,694
Louisa	404	3,617
Wapello	1,198	3,403
Johnson	4,828	3,192
Story	3,130	3,190
Franklin	323	3,190
Sioux	1,107	3,171
Webster	1,148	3,165
Black Hawk	4,181	3,158
Polk	14,723	3,022
Dallas	2,596	2,879
Carroll	557	2,764
Clarke	249	2,642
Dickinson	452	2,635
Emmet	236	2,551

Positive Cases by Race



Positive Cases by Ethnicity



No Homecoming Dance

We were approached by a number of high school students who desperately would like to hold a homecoming dance. We contacted Wright County Public Health to investigate the possibility.

However, if one person at the dance tested positive immediately after the dance, every student attending the dance would be quarantined for two weeks. We could lose nearly every student in our high school, and we do not believe the reward is worth the risk at this point.

Junior High Football Game Cancelled

We missed the opportunity to play the junior high football game we had scheduled with Central Springs. The parents of the Central Springs football players were unwilling to send their team to play with Belmont-Klemme due to the fear of contracting the COVID-19 virus here.

Masks Required versus Encouraged

The following is a list of schools that require masks and those who do not.

REQUIRED	NOT REQUIRED
Belmont-Klemme CAL Central Springs Charles City Clarion Goldfield Dows Clear Lake Eagle Grove Forest City Hampton-Dumont Iowa Falls Lake Mills Mason City Northwood Kensett Webster City West Fork	Algona Emmetsburg Garner Hayfield Ventura Nashua-Plainfield Pocahontas West Hancock

Of course, the Belmont-Klemme board was among the first to make masks mandatory, and now many districts have followed the example.

Support from County Health Officials

At last month's school board meeting, we mentioned Dr. McLoughlin, his role in the pandemic response in our county, and his opinion about schools reopening. On Sunday, August 23, he sent me an unsolicited email, and I share it with you below:

McLoughlin, Michael
Sun, Aug 23, 12:39 PM (20 hours ago)
to me

Dan - I just wanted to send a quick note to thank you and the Belmond school districts efforts to make school a less likely place to spread COVID through the community. From what I hear from parents and have seen directly from you I think that you've made an exemplary effort that is very likely to prevent wider spread in your community that would make it harder for some of the higher risk folks in the community to stay safe.

It is going to be quite a fall, but I greatly appreciate the seriousness and thoughtfulness with which the Belmond school district has approached this.

Michael

I just want to say these kudos go to my whole team: Theresa and her business office team who promptly supplied us with all we need, Trish and her tech team who gave us the successful tools we are using in the classroom, and principals Greg and Mark who put together the operational plans that are making the overall plan work. Thank you to these people.