

BELLVILLE ISD: INFORMATION UPDATE

OCTOBER 15, 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE

- BISD has experienced 8 positive cases of COVID-19 in 9 weeks.
- Cases included 4 secondary students and 4 staff members.
- Currently, all known cases are considered “recovered”.

HEALTH PROTOCOLS & PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

- The low number of cases in Austin County may qualify our county to be exempt from the state masks mandate.
- Schools continue to be governed by the Texas Education Agency and extracurricular activities must comply with the requirements of the University Interscholastic League;
- TEA & UIL continue to have in place masking guidelines and requirements;
- BISD has committed to reviewing the appropriateness, effectiveness, and necessity of our masking requirements every three weeks.
 - At this time, BISD is going to maintain masking expectations for all students who ride our buses and all students in grades 4th-12th for onsite instruction.
 - The reasons we want to maintain our current masking expectations are:
 - Give ourselves time to be certain we don't see a spike in cases in our area once the county order is lifted;
 - Allow ourselves to maintain heightened health precautions with more students returning to campuses for the beginning of the second 9 week grading period; and
 - Allow ourselves to resume some instructional activities with students in closer proximity to each other, such as group work and science labs, while maintaining heightened health precautions for an initial transitional period of time.
 - We realize masks are undesirable for many and do not want to maintain restrictions beyond what is appropriate and necessary, but we do feel like we are in the midst of several transitions that we need to be certain to get through safely before reconsidering our expectations.
 - Teachers in grades 4 & 5, will however, be encouraged and allowed to have students take lengthier masks breaks while seated as separately as possible in their classrooms during instruction.
 - We will revisit our expectations and review updated health data for our area, parent input, student input, and staff input in three weeks.

ONSITE AND ONLINE LEARNING MODELS

- BISD will continue to offer onsite & online learning for the second 9 week grading period.
- Students who have not been successful online, (those failing two or more classes) are to return to onsite learning for the second 9 week grading period to ensure credit and promotion is earned for this school year.
- Parents wanting to switch their child's enrollment status for the second 9 week grading period should contact their child's building principal on or before Friday, October 16.
- BISD will review local health data, student enrollment, student success, and staff input the first week of December to decide whether a fully online learning environment will or will not be offered for the second semester.