

Leelanau County Resolution #2021-____
Resolution Supporting The Independent Decision Making Of Public Health Officers

WHEREAS, the Preamble to the United States Constitution establishes that one of the primary objectives of the document is to promote the general Welfare; and

WHEREAS, the police powers granted to the states by the United States Constitution are meant to protect, preserve, and promote the health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the people; and

WHEREAS, the State Constitution of Michigan of 1963, Article IV, section 51, declares that the public health and general welfare of the people of the state are hereby declared to be matters of primary public concern. The legislature shall pass suitable laws for the protection and promotion of the public health; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan Public Health Code, Public Act 368 of 1978 Section 2453 reads: If a local health officer determines that control of an epidemic is necessary to protect the public health, the local health officer may issue an emergency order to prohibit the gathering of people for any purpose and may establish procedures to be followed by persons, including a local governmental entity, during the epidemic to insure continuation of essential public health services and enforcement of health laws. Emergency procedures shall not be limited to this code; and

WHEREAS, the virus Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), commonly known as COVID-19, has been recognized as a global pandemic since at least March of 2020; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has had more than one million cases of COVID-19, suffering more than twenty-one thousand deaths, and a current daily average new case rate of more than seventeen hundred; and

WHEREAS, new variants of COVID-19 continue to emerge, sometimes more contagious and harmful than the original form of the virus; and

WHEREAS, the FDA has authorized several safe and effective vaccines for emergency use in the fight against COVID-19, and studies have shown that the vaccines help to reduce transmission; and

WHEREAS, these vaccines have not yet been authorized for use on individuals under the age of twelve and some individuals with certain medical conditions may not be able to receive the vaccines; and

WHEREAS, face masks have been shown to be effective in reducing the transmission of respiratory viruses, including COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, schools across Michigan are beginning their new school years meeting in person, including for school-aged children who are currently unable to be vaccinated against COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, local health officials are appointed by the elected bodies of local government and the credentials of these health officials are verified by the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, local health officials are experts in public health and have been empowered by State Statute to make decisions to protect the public health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Leelanau County Board of Commissioners supports the ability of all local health officers in our state to make decisions to protect the public health based on the best scientific information available and free from political pressure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Leelanau County Board of Commissioners condemns any attempt by elected officials to use political pressure to coerce the decisions of local health officials.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of the resolution be transmitted by the Leelanau County Clerk to each county board of commissioners in Michigan, the Michigan Association of Counties, The Speaker and Minority leaders of the State House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority leaders of the State Senate, the members of the Leelanau County State House and Senate delegation, and the Governor of Michigan.