

**From:** [Ellen Fred](#)  
**To:** [Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment re support of Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 8, 2021 10:06:50 AM

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Dear Commissioners:

I write to express my strong support for our county Health Department and, in particular, its mask order and other Covid-related policies. Numerous studies have shown that the simple act of wearing a mask significantly reduces transmission rates of Covid, including the more contagious and dangerous Delta variant (e.g., <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/masking-science-sars-cov2.html>; <https://www.ucsf.edu/news/2020/06/417906/still-confused-about-masks-heres-science-behind-how-face-masks-prevent>).

Our child attends Leland Public School (LPS). Because we have an at-risk family member in our household, it was only because of LPS's decision to require universal masking at school that we decided to allow our child to attend in-person classes this year. We are so thankful that the school opted to take this simple, yet powerful, step to protect students and staff at school. One needs only to look at the experiences in Florida, Texas, and other states with no mask requirement to see that, without them, thousands of children and teachers have become infected and dozens have died.

I implore the Leelanau County Board of Commissioners not to bow to unfounded and unscientific political pressure to constrain our local health officials. To do so and block simple and effective measures to reduce transmission of this deadly disease will no doubt lead to increased infections and potentially death of many in our community. And you will be directly responsible for any lost lives stemming from such reckless and short-sighted action. Let the health officials do their job without political interference.

Thank you, and be well,

Ellen Fred  
Cedar, MI