

To: Leelanau County Board of Commissioners
Re: Special Meeting 09-09-2021
Please record my email as a Public Comment

I am going to make some assumptions here. I assume that some members of the Board of Commissioners disagree with our Health Department's mask mandate for Leelanau County Schools. I assume that many members of the Board of Commissioners do not follow medical science on a daily basis as I do. I assume that some members of the Board of Commissioners buy into the common myths re Covid-19 i.e. that Covid-19 is no more serious than the flu, that Covid-19 is a hoax, that children cannot contract Covid-19, that children cannot pass the virus on to others, that masking does not work to slow down the spread of Covid-19, that masking does harm to children, that the Covid-19 vaccines are unsafe. These truly are myths, untrue, completely false. If you like I can share the very latest scientific research that prove that these myths are untrue.

It behooves all of us, not just the local Health Department, to educate ourselves as the science re Covid-19 evolves. I am grateful that our Health Department works to fulfill their mission, their mission to protect the citizens of our country from public health crises. I am grateful that they follow the science.

As a "survivor" of Covid-19, a survivor of Covid ICU, a survivor of pulmonary embolisms caused by Covid, I have a personal interest in keeping up with the science. One does not have to die to succumb to the evil that is Covid-19. One can survive and live on with serious and long lasting impacts to one's health i.e. neurological damage, organ damage, long term disability. I am one of those long haulers. My Lord saved my life, medical science saved my life, and I believe that it is my obligation, my responsibility, to educate others in the hope that they will be spared the devastation that this virus can cause.

Children parrot the words and beliefs of their parents. I am grateful for the parent who hands a mask to his four year old and asks "what do superheroes do?". The child's response: "Superheroes take care of other people" as she smiles and puts on her mask. I am grateful for the parents whose children wear their masks to school and forget to take them off when they get home, who need to be reminded that they can take their mask off now. There are so many stories like these.

We all must do everything that we can to prevent the spread of this virus. I am sure that if all of the members of the Board of Commissioners read daily scientific reports from leading hospitals, doctors, and other reputable sources re all things Covid-19 the members would stand up for masking, vaccines, and social distancing.

I believe that we are on this earth for one reason, to care for each other, to serve our neighbors. I trust that the Board, that all of us, will put forth our best efforts to do exactly that. Our lives depend on our family, friends and neighbors. Karen Fredrickson, Suttons Bay