Good afternoon,

We in Leelanau County are so fortunate to have such a diligent and effective Health Department overseeing our best interests during this challenging pandemic. They deserve the highest praise for their community education about COVID-19, their efficient vaccination program, and their research-based recommendations and orders for our ongoing well-being.

As adults we understand that our scientific knowledge keeps evolving - as does the virus that causes COVID. And therefore our behavior also needs to continue to evolve. Right now, the scientific knowledge as reported by the Center for Disease Control and the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department tells us that resuming masking when in groups indoors is important to minimize the spread of the virus, along with hand-washing and social distancing, even in vaccinated individuals. The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is tasked with protecting the health of the public, and that is exactly what their recent Public Health Order does.

I hope that this evening our Leelanau County Commissioners will decide to support our Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department and their order regarding masking in K-12 schools in the strongest way possible, including leading by example with every commissioner and staff person properly masked.

Sincerely, Patricia A. Seiler, M.D. Suttons Bay