

**From:** [Rebecca Reynolds](#)  
**To:** [Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Mask Mandate -- For distribution  
**Date:** Thursday, September 9, 2021 2:15:19 PM

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To the Leelanau County Board of Commissioners:

Getting back to in-person learning is important for our counties' students. But so is public health safety, which involves reducing the spread of COVID-19 and maintaining safe operations during this pandemic.

As of August 2021, the **CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all students, staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.**

COVID-19 cases have increased nationally since mid-June 2021, driven by the Delta variant of SARS-CoV-2, making protection against exposure essential in school settings. As of this week over 1,000 schools have already had to close down in 35 states because of Covid. We don't want that happening here.

Many schools serve children under the age of 12 who are not eligible for vaccination at this time. Therefore, this guidance emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies (e.g., using multiple prevention strategies together consistently) to protect students, teachers, staff, visitors, and other members of their households and support in-person learning.

The Board of Commissioners must protect the health and safety of our student population by following and respecting the science behind this mandate. This is a public health matter, not a political one.

I urge the Commissioners to put politics aside and support the Benzie Leelanau District Health Department's "Mask Mandate." By doing so our schools will have their best and safest shot at staying open.

Thank you for your time.  
Rebecca Reynolds  
Leland

Rebecca Reynolds, Producer

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