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**To:** Clerk <[Clerk@leelanau.gov](mailto:Clerk@leelanau.gov)>  
**Subject:** For distribution before tonight's special meeting

Attention: Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

I whole-heartedly support the recent Benzie Leelanau District Health Department's Mask Mandate policy. Universal masking is the only safe, rational way to reopen and keep open our public schools. We know what will happen otherwise. Just look at the other states and the staggering number of schools that have been closed, not to mention the predictable number of students testing positive.

Do what's best for our communities. The CDC and other health officials have made it very clear. Masking works and is our number one solution to safe schools until we have vaccines for all ages. Our Health Department shouldn't be made to jump through unreasonable hoops when the supportive data is so compelling.

Commissioners, do the right thing. Put the politics aside and tackle this hurdle with science.

Jim Carpenter  
Leland, Michigan