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MEMORANDUM

TO: Saginaw County School Districts
FROM: Saginaw County Medical Society Board of Directors
RE: Mask Mandate in Schools
DATE: September 27, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Saginaw County Medical Society (SCMS) recently met and discussed mask mandates in place in several school districts in Saginaw County.

Although the Saginaw County Health Department (SCHD) has not issued a county-wide mask mandate, the SCMS commends those districts' decision to require all students, regardless of age or vaccination status, to wear masks indoors as the new school year gets under way. With the Delta variant surging and children under the age of 12 still not eligible to receive the vaccine, we believe this is the right decision and the best way to ensure schools stay open, and more importantly, students stay as safe and healthy as possible.

School districts in Saginaw County have been provided tools and guidance from the SCHD, and we recommend following these additional guidelines as well to limit the spread of disease. We encourage schools to reduce the risk as much as possible, knowing the risk will never be zero. The SCMS Board will periodically revisit this support for masking, based on the local surge data, infection and test positivity rates.

In-person learning is our shared priority since it has been clearly shown to provide the greatest benefit to our county's youth physically, mentally and emotionally. Implementing mitigation measures is an important step to foster optimal, uninterrupted in-person learning while simultaneously safeguarding the health and safety of our students and staff.

<https://www.saginawcountyms.com/leadership.html>

The SCMS is the professional association of physicians in Saginaw County, with over 600 physician, resident and student members. Chartered in 1902, the SCMS is a component society of the Michigan State Medical Society.

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