

**SEPTEMBER 9, 2021**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

**K-6 MASK  
REQUIREMENT IN  
ALLEGAN COUNTY**

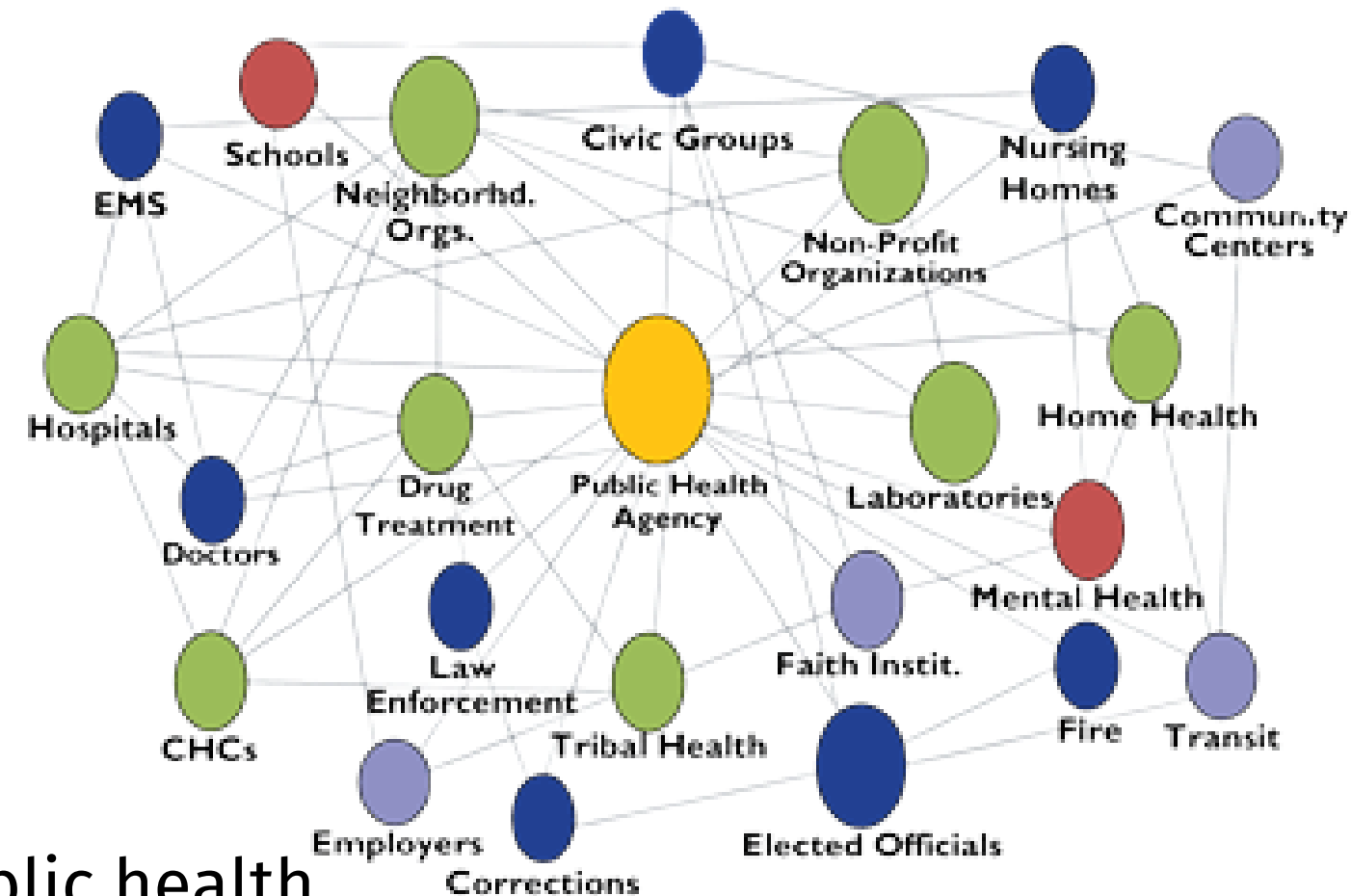


**HEALTH  
Department**

# What is Public Health?

"Public Health": the health of the population as a whole

- Pursuant to MCL 333.2433
  - A local health department shall continually and diligently endeavor to prevent disease, prolong life, and promote the public health through organized programs, including prevention and control of environmental health hazards; prevention and control of diseases; prevention and control of health problems of particularly vulnerable population groups; development of health care facilities and health services delivery systems; and regulation of health care facilities and health services delivery systems to the extent provided by law.



"Health": the state of being free from illness or injury.

- While a doctor treats people who are sick, public health professionals try to prevent people from getting sick or injured in the first place. They also promote wellness by encouraging healthy behaviors. (APHA)



**We were asked to review the  
information/comments from the  
last two BOC meetings**

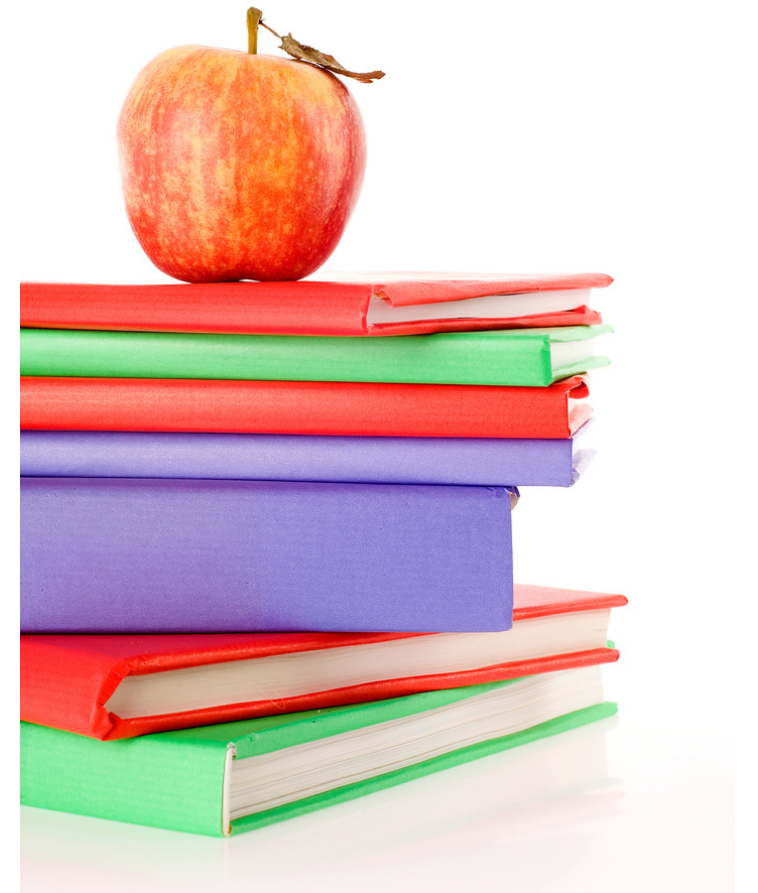
# Choices



- Going to a football game
- Going to a restaurant
- Participating in extra curricular activities
- Attending Allegan County Fair

# Not a Choice

- Children getting an education in public schools (for most people)
- 5-11 year olds do not have access to an authorized COVID-19 vaccine



## My child, my choice?

# Individual health behaviors impacting other individuals health

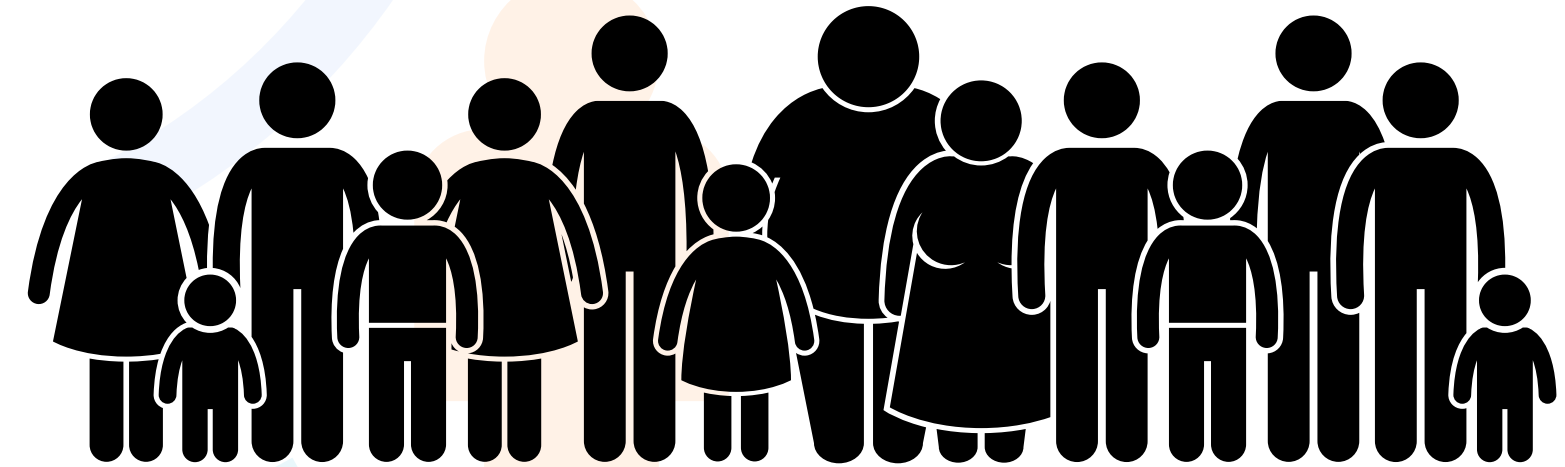


### Example:

Public Health recommends for children to wear a helmet while riding a bike to minimize traumatic brain injuries. If the parent doesn't have their child wear a helmet, only that child's health is impacted from this event.



When children don't wear masks, and are carrying COVID-19, they are impacting other children's and their family's health directly. The more people that wear masks decreases the risk of transmission at school



# K-6 Mask Requirement: *Who is excluded?*

**01** Persons in the act of eating or drinking.



**02** Persons outside if not engaged in activities involving direct physical contact.



**03** Persons under the age of five years; however, supervised masking is strongly recommended.



**04** Students with developmental conditions of any age attending school, although supervised masking is encouraged.



**05** Teachers who are working with children who are hard of hearing or students with developmental conditions who benefit from facial cues. These teachers or staff must be vaccinated or comply with masking directive.



**06** A person with a disability who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of the disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and Michigan Persons with Disabilities Act.



**For concerns, schedule an appointment with your primary provider to determine whether your child's disability prevents them from safely wearing a mask.**

## Resources

Mental Health and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Mental Health impacts health and well being of our children. ACHD recognizes that this pandemic can be an adverse childhood experience or traumatic experience for many children in our community. ACEs are linked to chronic health problems, mental illness, substance use problems in adulthood. We recognize mental health support is needed for children to reach their full potential. ACHD is willing to provide recommendations to policy and decision makers on funding to ensure all families have access to mental health support.

If you or your child are feeling emotional distress, get free, confidential support from a Michigan Stay Well counselor.

- Dial 1-888-535-6136 and press "8"
- The Stay Well counseling line is available 24/7.

The Allegan County Community Mental Health Service Agency is also a resource. Please call (269) 673-6617

Masks and Research

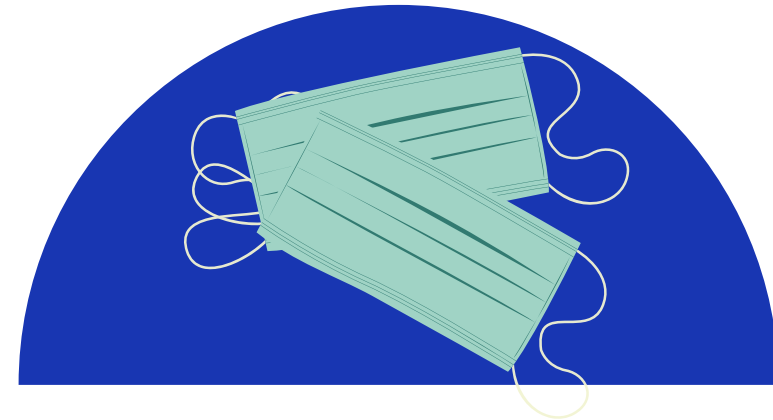
For mask suggestions for kids, or to read our literature review, visit [www.allegancounty.org/covid](http://www.allegancounty.org/covid)

# Face Masks



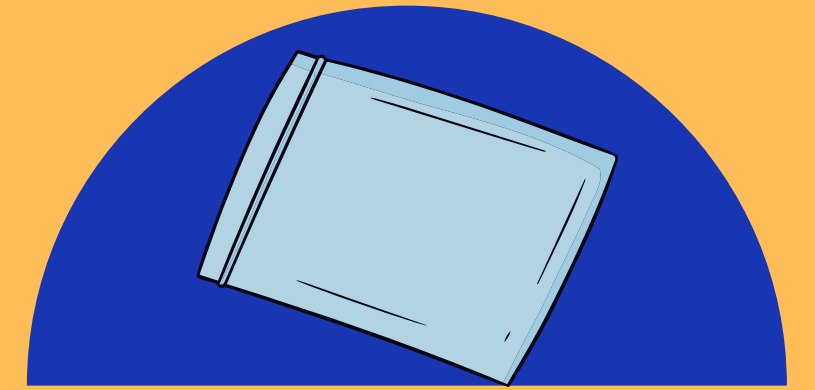
**Find a well-fitting, comfortable mask.**

- Every child's face is different, and because of that, there is no one right mask for all children.
- **Make sure the mask is properly covering the nose and under the chin with no gaps on the sides**



**Pack extra masks for your child, in case the one they leave with gets wet or dirty**

- Replace your mask with a new one as soon as it is wet or dirty
- Pack clean, dry masks in a paper bag.
- Let the teacher know they have extras.
- Talk to your school or the health department if you need extra masks
- Talk to your child on storing masks when they go out for recess (put in baggie, have a mask lanyard)



**Pack a "mask baggie" for wet, dirty masks**

- Store your wet or dirty mask in a plastic bag until it can be washed

## **Setting up for Success**


- We recognize that children want to do the right thing
- Identifying tools, tips and tricks to help teachers and students be successful
- Health education for schools and parents

# Information we were asked to look at

There is a lot of different perspectives among individuals in similar professions, but public health looks to professional organizations to provide guidance or standard of care for that profession as a whole



## Literal Mask Expert Opens a Can on School Board

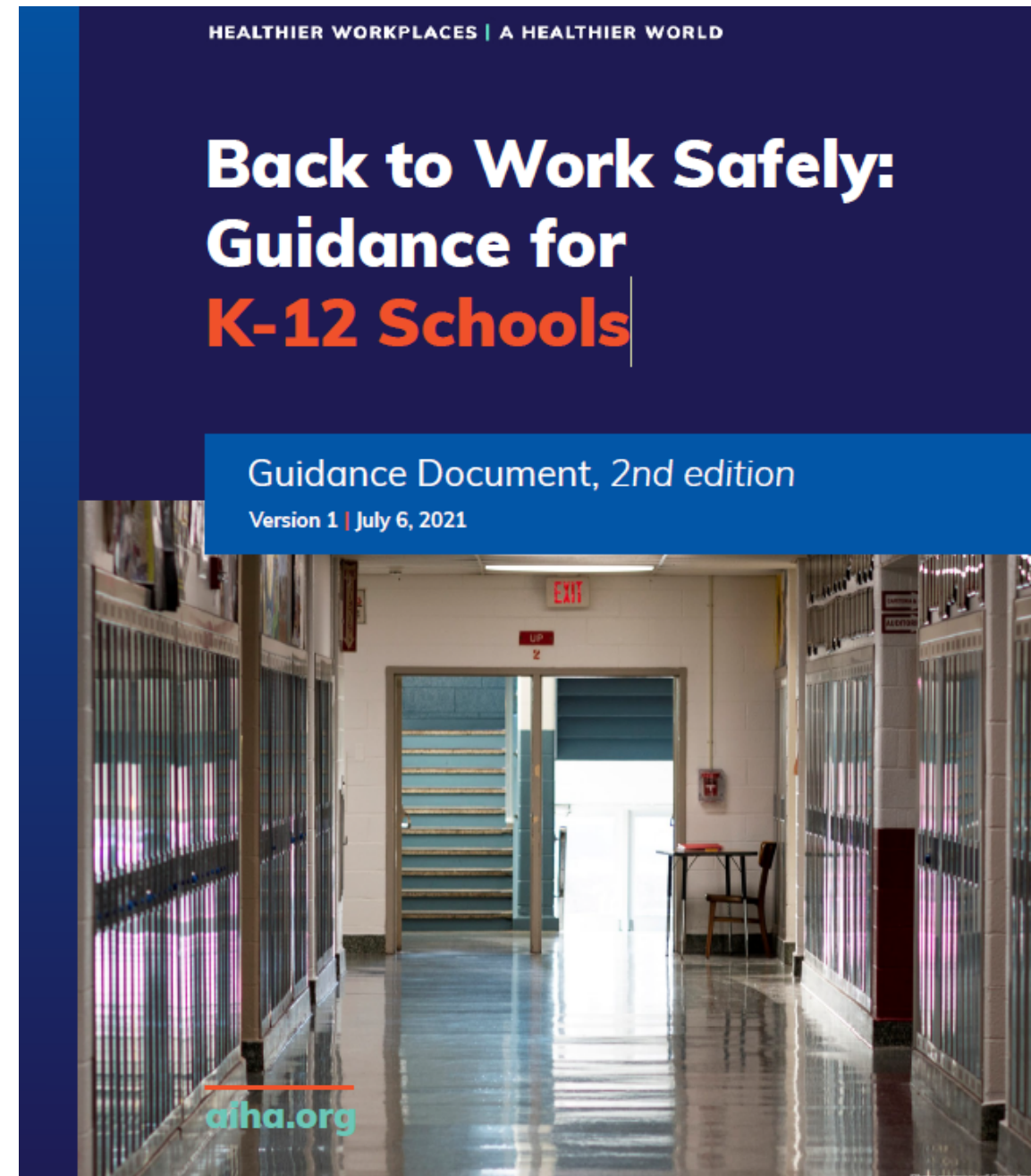
 ericmoutsos · Published August 20, 2021 · 531,085 Views



+ - 1579 rumbles

EMBED ↗

**Rumble** — This woman spoke at the Grandville board meeting yesterday and has over 19 years experience in mitigation training and is a Senior Industrial Hygienist that works in Occupational and Environmental Toxicology. She teaches the “experts” on how to effectively use a mask.



Read their full guidance [here](#).

- Face coverings can help limit transmission. Schools should follow all local, state, or federal face covering requirements.
- Provide disposable or washable cloth face coverings to students, teachers, and school staff, if possible.
- Students, teachers, and staff should be frequently reminded not to touch their cloth or disposable face coverings and to wash their hands often.
- Train school employees and students on the proper way to maintain, wear (covering both their noses and mouths), handle, and clean or dispose of face coverings, as discussed by CDC.
- Refer to CDC’s guidance on [how to wear masks](#) .





8/30/2021 [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [✉](#)

## Infectious Diseases Experts Call for Layered Strategy to Protect Students and School Employees

“The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) is urging school systems nationwide to use all available public health tools and strategies to prevent COVID-19 transmission in schools as teachers and students return to in-person learning. This is critical with children under the age of 12 still ineligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, the highly contagious delta variant circulating throughout the U.S. and vaccination rates lagging in some areas of the country.


Protecting students requires that they and the adults around them follow science-based public health guidance, which includes:

- vaccination for all eligible individuals;
- universal mask wearing in schools and on school buses;
- maintaining physical distance;
- conducting activities, especially lunch, outdoors when possible;
- ventilation, including opening windows in classrooms and on school buses when weather permits;
- staying home when sick;
- transparent procedures for reporting, contact tracing and quarantining in the event of an exposure.

Reports of outbreaks in schools and among children have risen since the school year began. IDSA experts say putting multiple COVID-19 prevention strategies in place is the best way to keep students, teachers and school employees safe.”

**Barbara D. Alexander, MD, MHS, FIDSA**—President, Infectious Diseases Society of America

Literal Mask Expert Opens a Can on School Board

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# Information we were asked to look at



International Journal of  
*Environmental Research  
and Public Health*



meta analysis/ review done

*Review*

## **Is a Mask That Covers the Mouth and Nose Free from Undesirable Side Effects in Everyday Use and Free of Potential Hazards?**

Of the mathematically evaluable, groundbreaking 44 papers with significant negative mask effects ( $p < 0.05$  or  $n > 50\%$ ), 22 were published in 2020 (50%), and 22 were published before the COVID-19 pandemic. Of these 44 publications, 31 (70%) were of experimental nature, and the remainder were observational studies (30%).

- Most of the publications in question were English (98%).
- Thirty papers referred to surgical masks (68%), 30 publications related to N95 masks (68%), and only 10 studies pertained to fabric masks (23%).

- No control groups
- Some small sample sizes
- Many studies around health care workers

68% (30 publications) were around N95 use, which are not recommended for school age children

Time bound requirement until access to vaccine for age group available or we are in low transmission for a consecutive 7 days

# Addressing Dr. Stock's presentation to Indiana School Board

ACHD presented the debunks to his presentation at our August 11, 2021 ACHD COVID-19 Update [here](#).

He describes himself as a “functional family medicine physician” which, according to him “means [he] is specially trained in immunology and inflammation regulation.”

- That is not what a functional family medicine physician does and misrepresents his training and expertise. The Cleveland Clinic Center for Functional Medicine defines functional medicine as a personalized, systems-oriented model that empowers patients and practitioners to achieve the highest expression of health by working in collaboration to address the underlying causes of disease. **Also functional medicine is not a specialty recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties nor the American Medical Association.**

He argues that masks don't work because viruses are small enough to pass through them.

- The problem with this reasoning is viruses do not travel as individual viral particles- they are inside the aerosols and droplets. That's what the masks block. **The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) has compiled the multitudinous, surfeit evidence demonstrating the effectiveness of masking [here](#)**

Stock raises the matter of antibody-dependent enhancement, except he calls it “antibody-mediated viral enhancement.”

- This is disinformation. Firstly, he defines ADE incorrectly by suggesting it is exclusive to vaccines. ADE does not have to be caused by a vaccine to be ADE- in Dengue which is the major infection for which it's relevant it is almost always because of infection. There is data on hundreds of thousands of people at this point who got convalescent plasma and it didn't make them worse. On top of that animal studies of the vaccines demonstrated protectiveness.



# Weighing the guidance and data

Locally, masks have worked in businesses and school settings to prevent outbreaks

[Spectrum Health's 2021 Masking Articles Compilation](#)

LITERATURE REVIEW  
CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS ASSOCIATION  
LOCAL MEDICAL PROVIDER SUPPORT  
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS (IDSA, AAP, AMA)

(click on for links)

## CONSIDERATIONS

- meta analysis/review
- Industrial Hygienist
- "functional family medicine physician"

# School Data Transparency

- We recognize that school data needs to be more transparent/available for the community
- We are working on developing a forward facing way to present data by school building to include:
  - cases
  - total quarantines
  - modified quarantines
- We are looking to implement this in early October





**Questions from  
Board of  
Commissioners**

