---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Carder, Crystal** <carderc@howellschools.com>
Date: Sat, Jan 1, 2022, 10:55 PM
Subject: A call for help: New Year New Strain
To: <WhitmerG@michigan.gov>, <GilchristG@michigan.gov>, <Hertele@michigan.gov>, <Bagdasariann@michigan.gov>, <Knezekd@michigan.gov>, rouball@michigan.gov <rouball@michigan.gov>, StarlingD@michigan.gov <StarlingD@michigan.gov>, Mellosg@michigan.gov <Mellosg@michigan.gov>, <HanleyF@michigan.gov>, beurert@michigan.gov <beurert@michigan.gov>, kimichika@michigan.gov <kimichika@michigan.gov>, <ScharzkopfE@michigan.gov>, <TravisA@michigan.gov>, <Rickm@michigan.gov>, <Masseyk@michigan.gov>, <JansenA@michigan.gov>, <BlodgettL@michigan.gov>, nagelb@michigan.gov <nagelb@michigan.gov>, <TateJ@michigan.gov>, <DMcCormick@livgov.com>, <JMarquez@livgov.com>, <BMaas@livgov.com>, <EHarman@livgov.com>, <CRynkiewicz@livgov.com>, Erin MacGregor <macgrege@howellschools.com>, Stacy Pasini <pasinis@howellschools.com>, <commissioners@livgov.com>, Brent Earl <earlb@howellschools.com>, Christy Conn <connc@howellschools.com>, Courtney Tarara <tararac@howellschools.com>, Zurek, Crystal <zurekc@howellschools.com>, Grace Trudell <trudellg@howellschools.com>, Marcus Wilcox <wilcoxm@howellschools.com>, <liptone@michgan.gov>, <mcmillin@michgan.gov>, <pritchettj1@michgan.gov>, <pughp@michgan.gov>, <snydern@michgan.gov>, <strayhornj@michgan.gov>, <tilleyt@michgan.gov>, <ulbrichc@michgan.gov>, <ricem6@michgan.gov>, <schneiderm@michgan.gov>
Cc: <SheriffMikeMurphy@gmail.com>

Dear Governor Whitmer, MDHHS, LCHD, Michigan State Board of education, Livingston County Board of Directors, Mr. MacGregor, and Mrs. Pasini and the rest of the Howell School Board of Directors,

I am a science teacher at Howell High School and I am a parent of 2 students, 7th and 11th grades.

Before I get into my purpose today, I want you to understand my competence level.  I teach students to be science savvy citizens every day.  I teach students how to evaluate informational sources.  I teach students that correlation does not always equal causation.  I teach students that science is not emotional, science is not opinionated, science is not political, science IS a collection of data.  Any data given should be scrutinized and held to high standards.

As a high school teacher in a district that has been maskless  all year and had alternative, or voluntary, quarantining, I can tell you that the Livingston County Health Department is lying by omission, if not just bald faced lying.  Our health department would tell you that covid 19 does not spread at schools; like there is some magical force field around schools. I, as an educator, can tell you that I have personally watched students in a table group contract covid, one right after the other.  Teachers everywhere can tell you the same thing.  We watch this happen in front of our eyes and wait for the superintendent to notify us that there has been covid spread at school.  We almost never see this in the data reported.  As a scientist, a citizen, and a mother, I have lost trust in the county health department's ability to conduct unbiased science!

Our county is struggling, our hospitals are beyond full and our children need us to speak up!  Children who want a vaccine but can not receive it because of their parents' view on vaccinations.  Children who want to wear a mask but their parents would "slap" them if they found out.  Children who are too young to receive a vaccine.  Children who are more likely to be affected by the Omicron variant.

Everywhere a concerned citizen, in a red county, looks for help, they are told it is another person's problem. Howell Public Schools recommends masks, Livingston county health department recommends masks, MDHHS strongly recommends masking, quarantining, and testing but no one is willing to take the blame for REQUIRING these items. Howell Public Schools is starting the second semester with no masks and alternative quarantines (voluntary).  Mr. MacGregor and the school board do not want to be blamed for implementing mandatory masks so they push it off to the county health department.  The county health department says everyone should wear masks but the Sheriff will not enforce any mandate so why have one.  The state says that it is up to county health departments to decide if masks should be a mandate.  Meanwhile, children are being put in danger.

I took a career in education to do my part to protect children, be a trusting adult in their life, and teach them to think.  Everyone addressed in this email should have taken your positions to do the same and protect our children.  With the  state of Michigan making daily news for record breaking numbers of unvaccinated people in the hospital system with covid, **you have no conscionable choice but to enact a mask MANDATE for grades k-12.**We are neglecting the exact population we all signed up to protect.  I am a mandatory reporter for child abuse and neglect.  I am reporting to all of you that the state of Michigan is neglecting all of our children!

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Carder*

*She/her/hers*

Instructor of Earth Science, Ecology, and

A.P. Environmental Science (A.P.E.S.)

**Howell High School**

All assignments can be found on [Schoology](https://hpsmi.schoology.com/).

“You never fail until you stop trying.”

― **Albert Einstein**

                                                  