

The Jefferson County Board of Health understands the following:

That on Friday, August 20, 2021, the Jefferson County Board of Education held a meeting. At that meeting the Jefferson County Board of Education instituted a mask mandate requiring all children attending a Jefferson County school to wear a mask at least until September 27, 2021 and that they based their decision on their perception that the Jefferson County Board of Health recommends a mask mandate. It is the further understanding of this board, the Jefferson County Board of Health, that its medical advisor, Dr. Terrence Reidy, was asked his opinion regarding a mask mandate and responded that he recommends mask use, but did not recommend a mask mandate. This resolution serves to clarify the position of the Jefferson County Board of Health with regard to this issue.

Whereas, in matters of health and medicine the Hippocratic Oath mandates to first do no harm;

Whereas, there are concerns as to whether or not masks can cause harm to children both physically and psychologically;

Whereas, the primary responsibility for a child's health is the parent or legal guardian of that child;

Whereas, it is the parent's responsibility to weigh the risks versus the benefits of mask use for their child and to take into account the personal health and needs of their child;

Whereas, Dr. Terrence Reidy is the medical advisor to the Jefferson County Board of Health, and is the Chief Medical Officer of the County of Jefferson, his recommendation regarding mask use represents his own opinion and not necessarily the opinion of the Jefferson County Board of Health, which opinion can only be expressed by actions of the Board as a whole;

Be it resolved that that Jefferson County Board of Education acted unilaterally and completely on its own in its decision to implement a mask mandate in Jefferson County Schools and that the Jefferson County Board of Health does NOT recommend a mask mandate for children attending Jefferson County Schools. The Jefferson County Board of Health recommends that the decision as to whether or not a child is to wear a mask in school rests solely with the parent of said child.