Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D., Commissioner



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## Resolution to Recognize Nebraska's Local Health Departments

WHEREAS, The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) continues to spread within the United States;

WHEREAS, As of November 13, 2020, 92,553 Nebraskans have contracted the virus and 756 Nebraskans have tragically lost their lives;

WHEREAS, The coronavirus disproportionately affects communities of color and the economically disadvantaged;

WHEREAS, Schools and communities have relied upon local health departments to provide leadership toward a safe return to school, and local health departments have been an integral partner for schools to continue to operate with students in the buildings;

WHEREAS, Local health departments work closely with schools and ESUs to develop reasonable plans for social distancing and masking in school facilities to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, The 19 local health departments and the Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors (NALHD) have been steadfast in their commitment toward student and community well-being; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Nebraska State Board of Education commends and affirms the expertise of Nebraska's local health departments;

**RESOLVED**, That the Nebraska State Board of Education affirms the efficacy of face coverings, social distancing, washing hands, and other methods for slowing the spread of the virus as outlined by public health professionals;

**RESOLVED**, That the Nebraska State Board of Education aims to elevate NALHD's call to Avoid the 3 Cs: Crowded Places, Close Contact, and Confined Spaces to stay safe during the pandemic; and

**RESOLVED**, That the Nebraska State Board of Education extends gratitude to NALHD and all public health professionals serving tirelessly in Nebraska's local public health departments.

Signed on behalf of the Nebraska State Board of Education, this 13th day of November 2020.

Maureen Nickels President

Patsy Koch Johns Vice President

Ratified by the Nebraska State Board of Education, December 11, 2020.