

Dear Council Members of Montgomery County,

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the hearing tomorrow because of work. But I do hope it is well attended and that you consider the facts before voting on the mask mandate.

Fortunately our state has been a leader in vaccinations. We are one of the most vaccinated counties in the country. Our residents have done their part in protecting each other. We have followed the science and done what we need to do to slow transmission of Covid. And with vaccines going to younger residents, covid deaths will continue to decrease, which is the very purpose of a vaccine. While people can still get covid, the gravity of the virus for most will continue to lessen.

At some point the government has to take a step back and let its residents determine what extraordinary measures they would like to take to protect themselves and their families now that vaccines are available.

Your residents should no longer be forced to wear masks inside. Of course, people have the right to wear them and businesses can request that people wear them, but there is no reason to continue to mandate them at this point. To do so would be a political statement and not one based on science.

Thank you for all that you do for our county. I greatly appreciate your time and hope that you are able to move our county forward out of the pandemic in the least restrictive manner possible.

Kind Regards,  
Jennifer Doherty  
Silver Spring, MD

\*emailed to council members 11.1.21