

Stop Bullying Your Constituents

It is time to move on and permanently remove mask mandates. Eligible Montgomery County residents are highly vaccinated, among the highest in the country, and soon a new group is likely to become eligible with the CDC about to weigh in on the 5-11 year old group. Although the 5-11 year old group is yet to be eligible, it is questionable as to whether vaccinating this group is truly warranted given the lack of children to become hospitalized due to COVID-19, they are not a high risk category for serious complications to disease and shouldn't that be the actual vaccination risk/benefit consideration? And by extension, the primary consideration as to the mask mandate question? The answer to both questions is "yes". This is why we should stop mandating masks.

Let's look at the numbers for Montgomery County, most recent census shows 1,062,061 residents (census.gov, April 2020). 91.2% of Montgomery County Residents 12 years old and above are fully vaccinated (montgomerycountymd.gov). Although transmission has just barely bumped us back up into the > 50 cases per 100k, hospital utilization remains low and shouldn't that be the prevailing indicator we are looking towards? Those testing positive are not getting really sick, maybe because it is a vaccinated person with breakthrough asymptomatic infection or a low-risk category under 12 years old. Whatever the reason the point being the hospitals are not being inundated with patients. This is why it is time to stop mask mandates for all indoor areas. And this should include schools. Especially those schools, middle school and above, where the children are vaccine eligible.

COVID is not going away, it is here to stay. The amazing news is, through science, we have a vaccine. Let people smile again! Stop mandating masks. Stop scaring people. This does not interfere with personal choice and freedoms, those who choose to wear masks can do so. But let the rest of us carry on as we see reasonable. Furthermore, masks have very limited effectiveness. Is it even legal to mandate masks? We now have better options, supported through rigorous science, vaccines!! Those at risk of serious complications are either vaccinated or have chosen not to be vaccinated. Stop making those who are vaccinated continue to wear a mask because someone else chooses not to be vaccinated. What exactly is the motivation to get vaccinated if you continue to accommodate the unvaccinated by mandating masks?

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