

I would like to ask the Council to vote against rethinking the ending of mask mandates in Montgomery County. Cloth masks have been proven to be ineffective at containing covid and forcing N95 masks via mandate is incredibly discriminatory and hurtful to the community at large due to price and availability. Mild Omicron is becoming endemic and is spreading quickly despite masking and vaccinations. For this reason, both mask and vaccine mandates serve only to give a false sense of security to the community. At an almost 85% vaccination rate for MoCo residents 5 and up, the county is at a point where further mandates for protection would do more harm than good, given that masks retard children's speech and social emotional learning, they make breathing difficult for a large part of the population, and give a false sense of security to the vulnerable while vaccine mandates erode public trust in government while not containing the virus. Montgomery County should focus on additional support to hospitals if they need it and not on mandating vaccines that don't contain transmission and masks that have a 3% efficacy rate to curb transmission. Political showboating should never encroach on personal safety and freedoms.

Olga Peterfalvy