

To the county council regarding your proposed changes to the mask mandate.

I am not asking you today to drop the mask mandate, and I agree terminating the mandate when Montgomery County reaches 85% vaccination rate no longer makes sense.

What I am asking is that is that you support some version of council member Andrew Frierson's amendment to add a termination clause.

I will allow you all to decide a date, or metric for such a clause. In my mind March always felt like the right date for such a clause based on past case trends. If anything, the rapid rise of Omicron may make that even more true. It could even be set as April 1st.

You could also keep the language defined by the CDC using moderate transmission.

The citizens of Montgomery County need hope. Hope that we eventually may be able to move on from this. Setting a mandate that has no termination clause does not give people hope.

The citizens of Montgomery County are tired from 2 years of a pandemic, but we can do this for 3 more months. However, the thought of an indefinite mandate may in fact make people less likely to mask up, even now.

In summary, keep the mandate for now, drop the 85% vax termination clause, but add a realistic 3rd date.

Matt Reese