

I am strongly opposed to the proposal to remove an offramp to the mask mandate. If you want to put the automatic termination on pause for a few weeks while the impact of the omicron variant is better understood, that makes sense. But to essentially give the Council unending power to mandate mask wearing is untenable. We are two years into this, and this virus is not going to be “masked” away.

Once omicron has made its way through Maryland, which likely will happen quickly, there is no reason to keep wearing a mask everywhere. Frankly wearing them right now is likely doing very little. But I can see the rationale for pushing pause on the automatic termination; however, there should be a clear date for termination of the mandate.

We are highly vaccinated county, which is great, and we need to start acting like it. (I myself recently got covid and because I’m boosted, it was indeed just like a having a cold.) And you will need to start trusting your constituents again to make decisions about their own risk level rather than regulating everyone to the standard of the most risk-averse person.

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