

## **AGAINST THE COVID VACCINE**

January 21, 2022

Dear Members of the County Council,

I oppose the idea of issuing COVID passports.

I urge the County Council NOT to recommend COVID passports for Montgomery County residents for the following reasons:

1. Those of us who have been vaccinated already effectively have a COVID passport, the vaccination card issued to us when we were vaccinated. These are already useful for securing airplane tickets, theatre tickets, etc, not only in Maryland but anywhere in the world.
2. The COVID passport is an unnecessary expense, is redundant (see #1), and probably requires an extra office and expense.
3. The creation of a passport invites forgery and a black market for passports.
4. The high point of the Omicron variant is already passed us by.
5. The COVID passport makes no allowance for those who have already been infected and have developed natural antibodies against COVID and its variations.
6. The science indicates that vaccinated people are not protected from carrying the virus, nor are they protected from catching the virus again, especially the omicron variant. So why would you give them a passport? Vaccinated people are as contagious as anyone else.
7. The need for a passport will hurt local businesses.

As to the last reason, let me give you an example. My wife and I were in Italy recently, and along with 4 of our relatives we stopped at a cafe for lunch. Although my wife and I had the documentation required for travelers in Italy (a green card, a kind of vaccine passport), my wife had left hers in our room. She tried showing her U.S. vaccination card, but it was not accepted. All 6 of us were turned away. The cafe lost the business of 6 potential customers.

This can easily happen in Maryland also if a group of people want to enter a business establishment and one of the group does not have a COVID passport. The business suffers the loss of multiple customers because one of them is missing or has forgotten their passport.

Sincerely yours,

William R. Ott  
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