

Dear Council Members –

I am taking my time to write you and urge that you vote **AGAINST** the resolution to introduce Vaccine Requirements to enter establishments within the county. We have seen throughout the state, region and country that different measures have had negligible to no impact on the spread of COVID-19. From the very beginning the concern, rightfully so, centered around the healthcare system as a whole and making sure it did not become overwhelmed. Per the county's own dashboard, since April 1, 2020, a period covering 656 days, the hospitalization utilization has reached a "moderate" level for 8 days (1.22% of the days) and has never reached a level defined as "high." It's time to stop using conjecture as an excuse for unnecessary mandates. Sure, we don't know what will or could happen, but that's always the case and with everything. We must use as much information as we can get and make as educated a guess as possible with that information. I would argue the last 656 days give sufficient evidence that the county does not need to worry about the healthcare system being overwhelmed, at least not from COVID-19.

Furthermore, I would argue that the last 45-60 days along with announcements from the CDC, the county cannot stop the spread through the use of vaccines.

At this point with both a weaker Omicron variant being so prevalent, and the vaccine and boosters not showing significant efficacy against it anyway, what is the point of a vaccine mandate? What will it do? How would we define it being a success in a way different than how our current situation shows?

Additionally, COVID-19 has shown itself to follow the patterns of typical influenza viruses as far as seasonality is concerned. Again, per the county's own dashboard, cases per 100,000 have been declining since January 9th, and this trend will continue as we move closer to spring.

At the end of the day, there is no positive, only a negative to a mandate. People will still get sick, and the hospitals will still have capacity for COVID-19 patients if necessary. But a mandate infringes on people's rights and only adds more frustration to the situation. It forces people to do things to their body they're not comfortable with. It forces employees to make decisions between a paycheck and bodily autonomy. It forces employers to change how they operate and put more onus on employees to take on more work than they did previously. You cannot convince me at this point that a vaccine mandate is a net negative given what we know and have seen with COVID-19 spread and how the vaccines work which is why I ask you to please vote **AGAINST** the Vaccine Requirement.

Respectfully,
Greg Herbold