

Dear Montgomery County Council,

Regarding the new COVID executive order and restrictions, I wish to make comments as a health professional and Montgomery County resident.

Our morbidity and mortality rates simply do not support these life-altering directives. The state has single digit deaths of individuals testing positive for COVID, whether or not COVID related. The new CDC overall mortality rate is 0.26% and for under 50 years of age is approx. 0.0003, or 0.03%, which is significantly lower than the flu. We are letting this virus linger in our community rather than letting it boom and bust. Eventually previously infected individuals will be reinfected due to waning immunity over time.

The reliance on measuring "cases" is improper and will always be significant due to testing large numbers of healthy individuals and inaccuracy of the test, with up to 3% false positives. Please take a critical look at morbidity and mortality, with the positive outcomes now seen with early steroid and blood thinner use.

These restrictions are creating a mental health crisis, a financial crisis, and a substance abuse crisis. In August alone in Montgomery County there were 400 hospital admissions for self harm or suicidal ideation, a major increase from the norm.

A vaccine will not pull us out of this. If we are lucky to have a safe vaccine with 50% effectiveness and there is 50% uptake, we have about 25% protection. This will not prevent "cases". However, we have never had a safe and effective Coronavirus vaccine, especially a first in man mRNA version, especially with no manufacturer or doctor liability, my family will not be taking it and polls show at least 50% of the population will not.

We need the freedom to live our lives and have the majority of the population continue to build immunity (some had prior immunity from coronavirus cold). This will allow it to crash and burn.

Our positivity rate is still close to the margin of error for the test. We are not in a public health emergency. We cannot control the virus with physical measures so please allow us to live our lives while we can.

Sincerely,

Peter D'Orazio

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