

Dear Montgomery County Council,

As a working-from-home father of a 2-year old attending the Children in the Shoe daycare facility in Bethesda, I am writing to oppose the proposed changes to restrict the capacity of childcare facilities to 50 percent.

Child care facilities are an invaluable and essential service in our community during this time. The lack of adequate childcare capacity will have serious repercussions on my and wife's, and from discussions with parents in similar situations many people's, abilities to adequately fulfill our professional obligations.

Furthermore, there have been several studies showing that childcare facilities that follow sanitary guidelines are not a risk for transmission of Covid. As the more recent article on the Yale study says:

Children in day-care programs present virtually no risk of transmitting Covid-19 to adults, according to a new Yale University study of more than 57,000 U.S. child-care providers.

The study, believed to be the largest of its kind, indicated that keeping child-care centers open doesn't contribute to transmission of the disease caused by the new coronavirus, as long as they hew to sanitary guidelines like hand washing, small group sizes and staff wearing face coverings.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/daycare-centers-are-very-low-risk-for-covid-19-transmission-study-says-11602699914>

Thus, with the changes in procedures that childcare facilities in Montgomery County have already undertaken with successful results, there also doesn't appear to be a motivation from a health and transmission perspective.

Thank you,

Vladimir Eidelman, PhD