

Ice Hockey and Ice Rinks in Montgomery County:

I would like the County council to understand that we are an outlier in terms of restrictions to ice rinks and youth hockey in the entire country at this point and if any members of the council actually care the damage these draconian measures have caused. In case members of the council were not aware, currently, per latest county order, ice rinks in Montgomery have had to run with no more than 10 people on an ice surface since December.

Here is what I would ask of the council to consider and/or ask the people responsible for these arbitrary decisions.

Do you think Dr. Gayles knows the size of an ice rinks playing surface? It's 17,000 sq ft..more than 3.5 times the size of a basketball court and even moreso of a volleyball gym. How come we are being treated in the same way?

Do you think Dr. Gayles knows anything about the ventilation in ice rinks? (He should, we sent the county documentation). Ice rinks are not stale air like gymnasiums, we have some of the best ventilation in any industry.

Montgomery County, Maryland is not only the only place in Maryland with these draconian restrictions on ice rinks, we are the only place in the country now with even California reducing restrictions on indoor sports last week.

Here is a snapshot of what our neighbors have been doing since the start of the Hockey season on September 1st.

PG County-Allowed "Modified Hockey" meaning no checking, masks on ice, games with DMV teams only.

AA County-Allowed full hockey (no masks, checking allowed) however limited to MD games only originally. Went to 20 people on ice in December for 4 weeks. In Mid-January released all restrictions on hockey and limited ice rinks to 25% capacity.

Howard—Started with Modified Hockey, went to a less draconian 20 person limit for awhile, now operating back to Modified Hockey

Frederick – No restrictions all year

Harford – No restrictions all year

Virginia- No restrictions all year.. Games with teams out of state, no masks, full check

Pennsylvania-No restrictions until a 3 week pause around Xmas, currently no restrictions.

NJ-Only restrictions were in state competition only but allowed full contact, full games, no masks on ice, eliminated travel restrictions 3/1

CT-Wide open until 11/1, then followed NJ model, wide open again as of 3/1

NY-Follows the MD model where counties can make decisions. In most of NY its wide open. In the counties around NYC they are able to play local games, no masks on ice, so way less restrictive then MoCo.

Massachusetts – Same as NJ.

North Carolina – No restrictions

As you can see Montgomery County is a complete outlier. What “SCIENCE AND DATA” does Montgomery County have that ice hockey is not safe that the rest of the country does not? Shouldn’t all of those places have massive outbreaks related to ice hockey?

Does anyone in the county believe that by prohibiting ice hockey in the county it stops kids from playing hockey? All that this half-brained policy has done has encouraged local kids from going to other rinks, playing games in other counties or states, and destroying the businesses of your constituents.

There are many people who’s livelihoods are impacted by Rockville Ice Arena and hockey in the area and the county is slowly destroying that for lots of people and for what? In 12 months, we have been completely shut down for 4 months, operated at barely break even margins for 5 months, and now operating under stricter conditions than anyone in the country for 3 months AND there is ZERO EVIDENCE THAT HOCKEY IS A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO SPREAD. At what point is it enough?!