

To the Members of the Montgomery County Council:

I strongly urge the Council to take the necessary action immediately to require all county employees (with the exception of certain limited medical accommodations) to be vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible; to exempt the COVID-19 vaccination requirements from collective bargaining; and to amend the county personnel and human resources law as necessary.

County employees are public servants; their jobs are to execute public services. They are paid, not by some employer, business, or organization, but by the people of the County. Their jobs are not driven by profit or opinion, but by the need for services to all the people of the County.

People who chose not to be vaccinated endanger their own lives, but far more importantly, they endanger the lives of everyone else. There is no valid excuse for refusing to be vaccinated, except in some unusual cases for extenuating medical conditions. It is beyond comprehension that consideration be given to allowing public servants to choose not to be vaccinated. There are plenty of other requirements for holding a public job and being vaccinated against this deadly disease must be a requirement.

The Council is asked to weigh facts and make tough decisions; the facts in this case clearly support vaccination, so it should not be a tough decision. There are no facts to support people's willful refusal to be vaccinated and there are overwhelming facts in favor of vaccination. It is not rational for our County's public servants not to be required to get vaccinated as soon as possible. County employees hold their jobs to provide public services; to be vaccinated serves the public good, and there certainly is no public service to be gained from not being vaccinated. County employees must not be allowed to put their own misguided actions against the public good.

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