

I oppose the Board of Health Regulation to “prevent” the spread of COVID-19 in the County by imposing Vaccine “Requirements” to Enter Bars, Restaurants, Fitness Centers, and Other Covered Establishments.

No jurisdiction that has implemented a similar set of “requirements” has “prevented” the spread of COVID-19. Your proposal touts the “success” New York City’s “Key to NYC” vaccine passport. After 5 months of “successful” operation, New York City has its highest transmission rate at any point in the pandemic, and a rate of transmission that is over 2x what we are currently experiencing in Montgomery County. Clearly, the spread of COVID-19 has not been “prevented”.

This becomes evident in your proposal’s refusal to indicate what a “success” measure would be. If this passive-aggressive attempt to increase the county’s vaccination rate results in the spread of COVID-19 being prevented, there should be a defined goal that triggers a “Phase-Out” period. Alternatively, when it becomes evident that this regulation is having no impact on “preventing” the spread of COVID-19, it should also have a “Phase-Out” period so as to not perpetuate an ineffective regulation.

But even if a “Phase-Out” was defined, we have no confidence in the Council’s ability to abide by it. The Council has repeatedly defined and re-defined its public health regulations regarding masking to make it perpetually required. We would be dumb not to expect a similar experience with this regulation.

With Omicron, no one can say with a straight face that vaccines “prevent” the spread of COVID-19. Anyone who tries to make that claim is either dumb or a liar. This is a high-cost regulation that will be highly ineffective against its stated goals. We do not need this regulation in Montgomery County.

I oppose.

Michael Patrick