

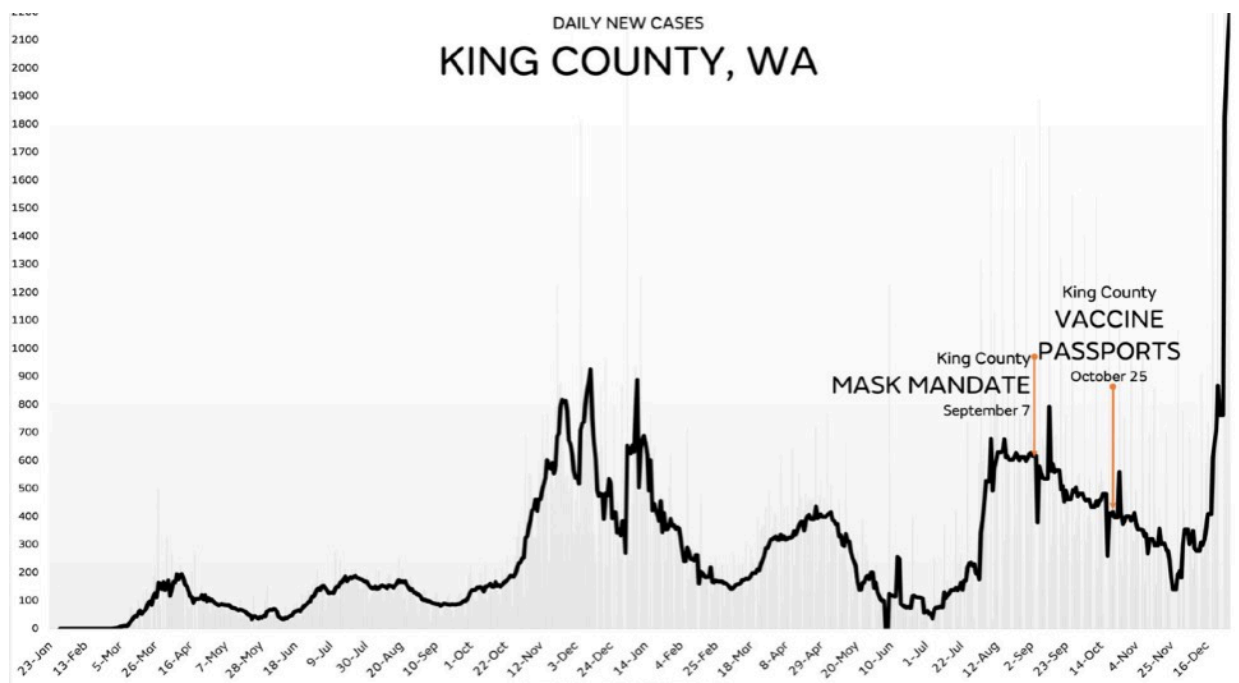
January 3, 2022

Dear Members of the Board,

Thank you for your work leading our county! We love so many things about living here, including the wonderful parks, well-designed road and transportation systems, and great emergency services.

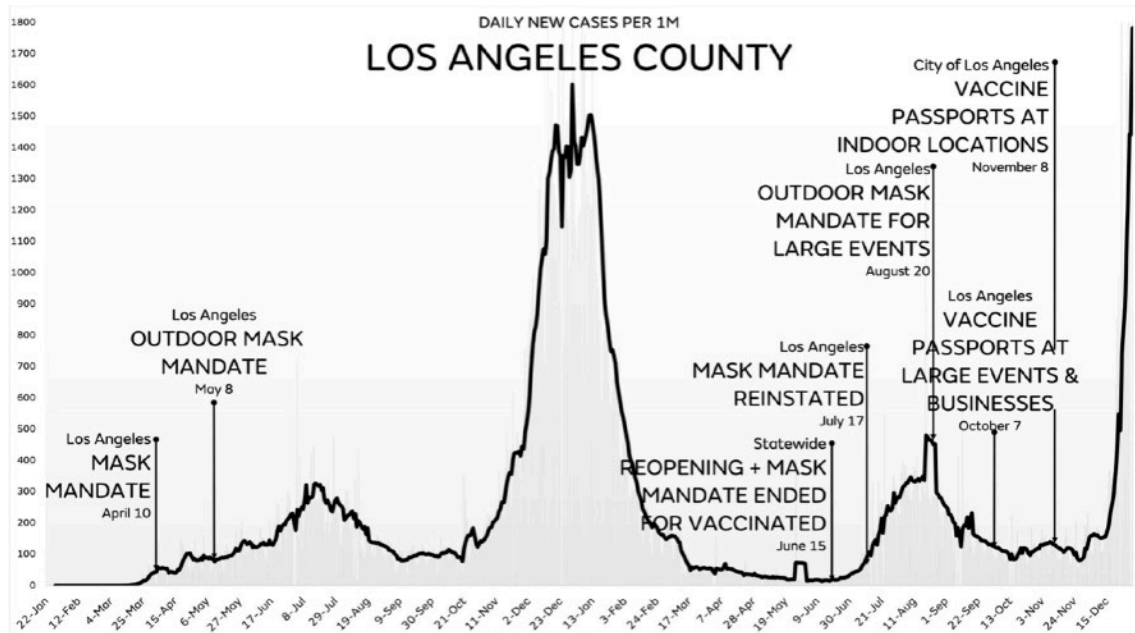
We wish to express our very sincere concern over the proposal that is being considered regarding a vaccination passport system here in Montgomery County. The Covid-19 pandemic has now been going on for nearly 2 years and we understand that solutions are desired to end it. We would all like to be safe, and move past this pandemic; however, a vaccine passport system is not the solution. **Similar vaccine passport systems have been enacted all over the world with little to no effect on reducing the number of cases or hospitalizations in the areas where they have been enacted.**

- ➡ In Seattle, a vaccine passport system was enacted on October 25th. Cases are currently at record highs, up 455% since the implementation of the passport system.



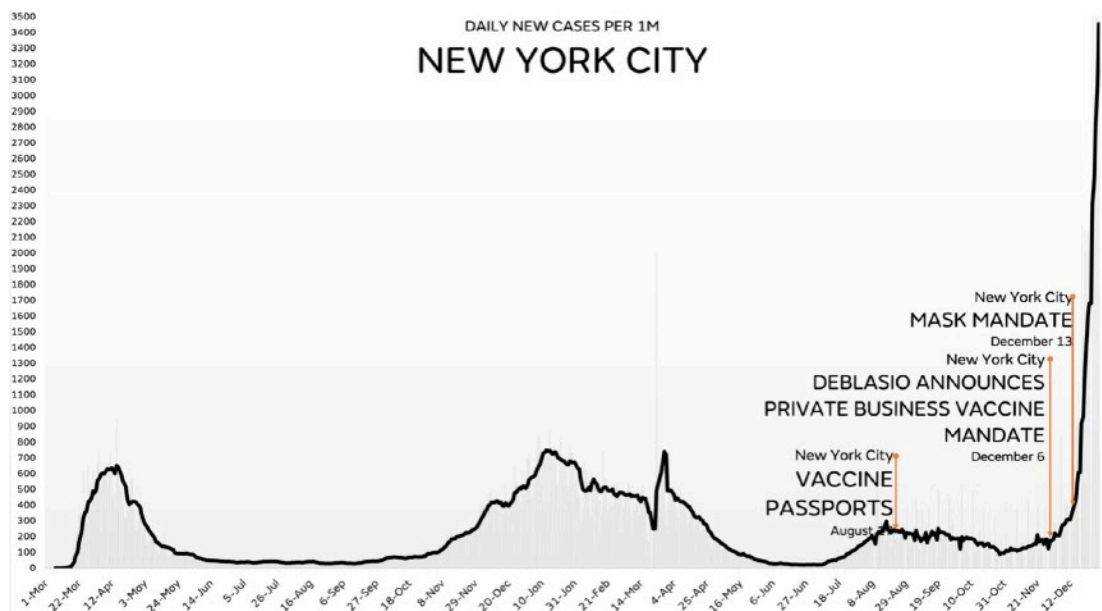
Source: NY Times Covid-19 Data- 7 Day Avg.

- ➔ In Los Angeles, vaccine passports were implemented for large events and gatherings on October 7th and for all indoor activities on November 8th. Since then cases have reached record highs.



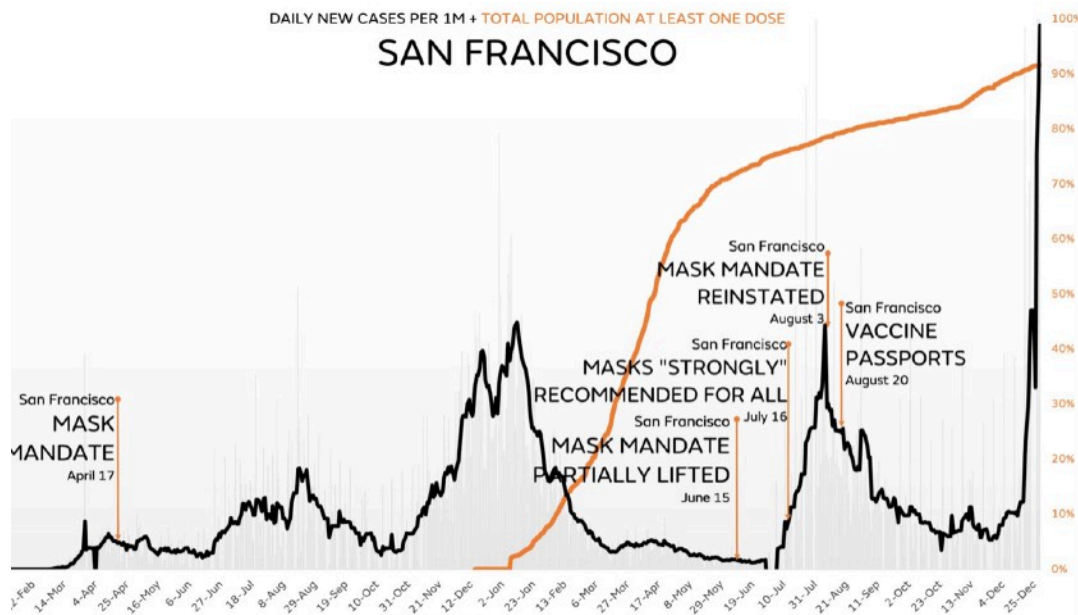
Source: Johns Hopkins CSSE Covid-19 Data- 7 Day Avg.

- ➔ In New York City, cases are up 1,342% since vaccine passports were implemented on December 6th.



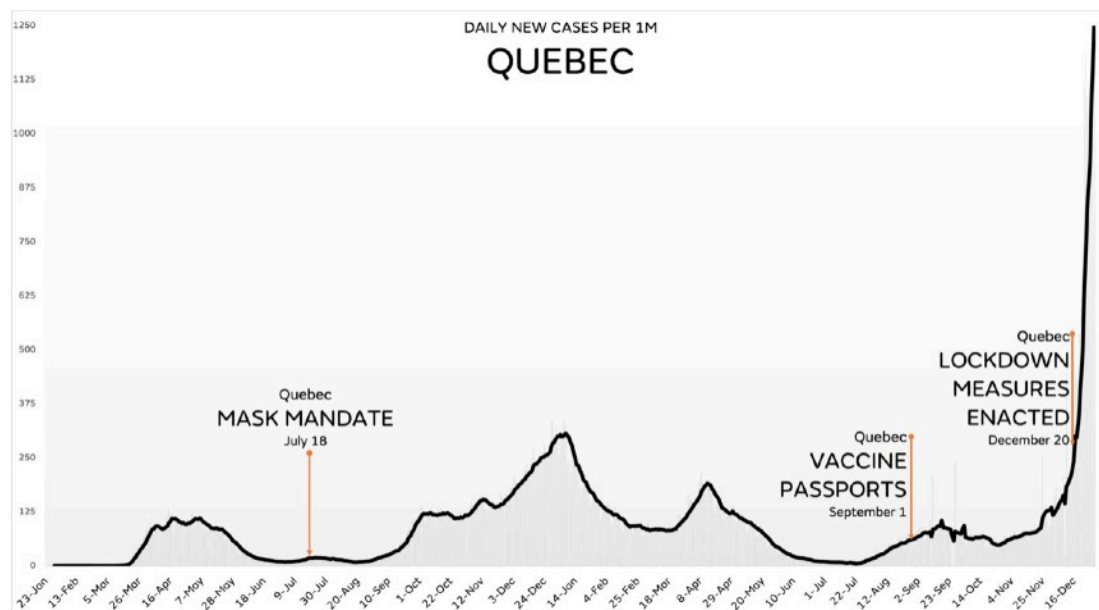
Source: NY Times Covid-19 Data- 7 Day Avg.

- ➔ San Francisco implemented a vaccine passport system on August 20. Since then, cases are up 1,765% despite 92% of everyone being vaccinated.



Source: California Public Health Open Data- 7 Day Avg.

- ➔ In Quebec, 85% of the population is vaccinated, and cases are up 1,855% since vaccine passports were implemented.



Source: Johns Hopkins CSSE Github- 7 Day Avg

The point in bringing up these numbers is to show that vaccine passports will not have the intended effect some may believe they have.

Meanwhile, vaccine passports in Montgomery County will likely hurt our community in at least three ways:

1. Create a burden on local businesses who would have to add another task to their workforce without compensation for that work.
2. Create an invasion of privacy for individuals.
3. Engender a false sense of security for those that visit the passport-only establishments. It has been well documented that those who are vaccinated, (and even boosted!) can still be carriers and spreaders of Covid-19, as well as be infected by it, so they may spread the virus at an increased rate with this false sense of security.
4. Place an inequitable exclusion on our county's children (as they have the lowest vaccination rate per age group). Our children have already carried more than their fair share of the burden as we can clearly see by documented learning loss, rise in mental illness and suicide, and loss of social development through time with extended family and friends.

As you weigh the decision to implement a vaccine passport system here in the county, please keep these points in mind. Vaccination passports are not the solution we seek to lower cases or end the pandemic.

Councilmembers, please ask yourselves: what evidence can you present to the County that vaccine passports will mitigate the spread of Covid-19 or increase our County's overall public health and well-being?

Sincerely,

Tyler R. Johansen & Nicole M. Johansen