Dear Montgomery County Councilmembers,

As a fully vaccinated health professional living in Montgomery County, MD, I am completely opposed to any vaccine mandates or passports for businesses and schools.

It has become quite clear that the current vaccines available to the public lack the effectiveness and duration to be capable of slowing Sars-Cov2 infections. Our county is the most vaccinated in the country, yet our current rate of infection is among the highest. One day last week approximately 1/200 citizens tested positive for Sars-Cov2. Even Bill Gates declared that the current vaccines are not capable of controlling infection. https://www.theedgemarkets.com/article/current-covid19-vaccines-missing-two-key-elements-says-bill-gates. Dr Fauci now says Omicron will find just about everyone. https://www.cnn.com/2022/01/11/health/us-coronavirus-tuesday/index.html

WHO says that vaccine mandates should be a last resort to boost low vaccination rates. https://unric.org/en/who-mandatory-vaccinations-are-a-last-resort/. A mandate is clearly not needed as our citizens have done their part and gotten vaccinated. The pharma community has let us down with a product touted to be 95% effective, yet in reality is completely ineffective at stopping the current variant of Sars-Cov2. Unfortunately, this is how future evolution of the virus will unfold, with an endless immune escape from potential vaccines. Sars-Cov2 is not polio or the measles. It mutates, infects, and transmits too quickly to be controlled completely by vaccination.

Imposing restrictions on businesses and school children would be a symbolic gesture at best. The best scientific minds in our county must see that a vaccine mandate will not make these establishments safer. This became clear during the latest school board Zoom call where Executive Elrich and Superintendent Mcknight were both working from home ill with Covid despite vaccine boosters. Vaccine mandates will only harm our businesses economically and divide our community further. Many individuals have already had covid and prefer not to vaccinate with a product that will not prevent infection, despite any possible reduction in morbidity and mortality. My family and countless others will gladly take the 20 minute drive to Frederick and Howard Counties to patronize businesses that promote free choice of Covid protective measures.

Also, many of our children have already had Covid, yet they sit masked in school endlessly. They dont understand how this is helping anyone. They are masked and highly vaccinated, yet cases in schools are exploding. Please set a firm guidance for removing masks from our children and do not consider ineffective vaccination mandates for school attendance.

Sincerely,

Peter D'Orazio RPh.

Hi Montgomery County Councilmembers,

As a fully vaccinated taxpayer, registered democrat, registered pharmacist, and life-long Montgomery County citizen, I am dismayed by the comments made by several county officials during the January 18th forum. They showed a clear misunderstanding of the current Covid situation and these irresponsible comments need to be addressed.

Councilmember Jawando was enamored with the fact that French President Macron wished to "Piss Off" unvaccinated citizens with their mandate. France is creating strangling rules while others in the UK and some EU countries are contemplating relaxing or completely eliminating restrictions. The UK is lifting all restrictions soon, and we should follow immediately. Currently the CDC recommends against all travel to France and states, "Because of the current situation in France, even fully vaccinated travelers may be at risk for getting and spreading COVID-19 variants" https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/covid-4/coronavirus-france

". So vaccination will not help travelers? Mr. Jawando and anyone supporting these measures and attitudes has lost our vote and the vote of many others.

Dr. Stoddard provided a very flawed CDC data point, the number of positive cases, as his supporting evidence for why he believes vaccines limit the spread of Covid. Everyone who keeps up with Covid policies knows that the more tests you perform, the more positive cases you find.

If you perform more tests on the unvaccinated population than the vaccinated, you will find more positive cases in that community, which Is exactly what has been going on. Many businesses and localities have rules that require unvaccinated individuals to test to participate, but do not have this requirement of the vaccinated, under the incorrect assumption that vaccinated individuals do not catch or spread Covid. This dichotomy of restrictions has created the illusion that vaccinated individuals are more likely to catch Covid, simply by forcing more unvaccinated individuals to take the test.

To prove Dr. Stoddard's hypothesis, he would need to conduct a scientific study where 100% of the population is tested. As it happens, there are several studies that have done just this. One of these studies tested the entire population of a prison following an outbreak, finding "About 70% of fully vaccinated people in a Texas prison caught COVID-19 in an outbreak, the CDC said." 70% of fully vaccinated prisoners caught COVID-19 in a Texas Delta outbreak, the CDC says - but vaccines protected against severe disease





70% of fully vaccinated prisoners caught COVID-19 in a Texas Delta outbr...

Of 129 fully vaccinated prisoners who caught COVID-19, only one was hospitalized. Unvaccinated people at the pri...

There was another study done on the participants of a party with a large outbreak where "about three-fourths of the 469 infections were among vaccinated people." The Vaccinated Are Worried and Scientists Don't Have Answers





Nearly 200 More COVID Cases Reported in Provincetown Outbreak

More than 430 coronavirus cases have been confirmed as connected to a COVID outbreak in Provincetown, the popula...

Provincetown had a rather large outbreak, and while they probably didn't test every single person in the town, they tested enough to find "69% of affected individuals reported to be fully vaccinated." https://www.nbcboston.com/news/local/nearly-200-more-covid-cases-reported-in-provincetown-outbreak/2440384/?amp

I find Dr. Stoddard's assertion that unvaccinated people are significantly more likely to test positive for Covid to be completely unsupported by the data, and this has been proven out in many scientific studies.

Councilmember Rice made an equally flawed assertion that vaccinated individuals breath out fewer viral particles than unvaccinated individuals when infected. He cited a UCLA study that backed up his claim as the lone reason why he would not accept the scientific studies that countered his statement.

However, this particular UCLA study was conducted between December 2020 and March 2021, which means that it did not include the Delta variant. The Delta variant spreads in a different way from the original strain of Covid, which allows it to bypass the protection offered by vaccines.

Below, I am including links to more recent scientific articles that explain why Councilmember Rice's statements are out of date and should not be used to make policies in 2022.

The outdated UCLA study. -

Vaccinated people with breakthrough COVID infections had lower viral loads



Vaccinated people with breakthrough COVID infections had lower viral loads

A UCLA study of 12,000 health care workers found infected individuals who were unvaccinated shed more viral part...

An article explaining why Delta can evade the vaccines in ways that the original variant couldn't.

Evidence mounts that people with breakthrough infections can spread Delta easily

Evidence mounts that people with breakthrough infections can spread Delt...

A new study finds that this dominant variant can grow in the noses of vaccinated people as strongly as in unvacc...

A study showing that vaccinated people transmit Covid just as much as unvaccinated. "Individuals who have had two vaccine doses can be just as infectious as those who have not been jabbed." -

Covid: Double vaccinated can still spread virus at home



"CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said recent studies had shown that those vaccinated individuals who do become infected with Covid have just as much viral load as the unvaccinated, making it possible for them to spread the virus to others." -

CDC recommends the vaccinated wear masks in some areas



The public statements of Dr. Stoddard and Councilmember Rice are very dangerous. They are in a position of high influence, and when they distort the facts to discount the well researched testimonies of residents, they do great harm to the community.

We are 2 years into this pandemic and if our lawmakers still haven't bothered to do the proper research to understand this virus, then they need to move out of the way for someone who has.

By the way, our child and many others have recently had Covid, yet he sits in a school all day with a mask on unnecessarily. When will it become choice to protect oneself?

Please start drawing back Covid restrictions immediately. We need normalcy and need to live with this illness. The time is now.

Sincerely,

Peter D'Orazio, RPh.