

**Testimony to Montgomery County Council on Resolution to adopt Board of Health Regulation -  
Vaccination Requirements to Enter Bars, Restaurants, Recreation Centers, and Other Covered  
Establishments**

I think the Council really needs to think more clearly about WHY it's looking at implementing the vaccine requirements and what its end game is on all of this. I'm not necessarily opposed to the idea -- I'm fully vaxxed and boosted so it wouldn't be a burden on me -- but I genuinely don't understand what the purpose is at this point. We already have incredibly high vaccination levels -- I think we just went over 84.8% vaccinated, which is basically where the County originally set the target to end the mask mandate -- so what exactly is this new rule going to do?

New York City did it successfully but a) they did it in August AND b) it went hand-in-hand with NOT having a mask mandate. So it basically allowed people to go to restaurants and clubs and have a normal experience once they'd shown their vaccine card. Basically it was a pretty simple "reward" system for being vaxxed. And it moved the needle when they had a much lower vaccination rate than we do. This new rule isn't trying to do anything like that.

We're looking at doing this now, when you've ALSO been mandating everyone wear a mask since last August AND when we're at 85% vaccination so.... I just don't get what the goal is. Other than, to be honest, to continue to send the message to everyone in Montgomery County that things are terrible, no one can go back to living a more normal life, everyone should be afraid, and life is weird and unpleasant with no end date. This is not a recipe for a thriving county.

If you do implement this -- and again I'm fully vaxxed and boosted so I'm good -- at the least give us the reward of ending the mask mandate. Doing all of it together is just.... I think you've lost the plot here.

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