

Dear Councilmembers,

I have been a resident of Montgomery County for 44 years. I am earnestly asking you to please NOT pass the vaccine mandate. Please consider the following:

- The vaccine mandate will hurt small businesses who are still reeling from the shutdowns of last year. I believe that enough people will do business in neighboring counties that it will hurt our own businesses.
- Minorities are more greatly impacted by these mandates because they generally have lower vaccine rates.
- The current vaccines “offer very limited protection” against the Omicron variant, according to the CEO of Pfizer. For this reason, Pfizer is hoping a new vaccine targeting the Omicron variant will be available in March. However, experts believe Omicron will peak this month and then infection rates will drop.
- According to Reuters, as of January 20, the rates of Omicron have dropped 40% in Maryland from the previous week. Please see graphic on the next page or visit <https://graphics.reuters.com/HEALTH-CORONAVIRUS/USA-OMICRON/zgvomadgmvd/USA-OMICRON.jpg> Most likely, Montgomery County will see rates dropping soon as well.
- Montgomery County’s proposal will also affect children 5-11 beginning in March. Many experts are questioning the validity of vaccinating young healthy children. Their risk of hospitalization and death from COVID is negligible, whereas hospitalizations due to vaccine adverse events are rising even though the vaccination of this age group has only recently begun. We will not be vaccinating our two young sons. If this proposal goes through, then they will begin attending indoor activities in Howard or Prince Georges Counties.
- Omicron is spreading rapidly through all people, vaccinated and unvaccinated, with mostly mild symptoms and fewer hospitalizations which is a big change from the previous variants. Hospitalizations are up for people with COVID (what Dr. Fauci calls “incidental cases”) but not for COVID.
- I realize that you must consider all guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and input from the Acting County Health Officer and his team of health experts, but ultimately, you represent the citizens of Montgomery County and must take our specific concerns into consideration.

Because of these reasons, the proposed vaccine mandate will not prevent the spread of COVID19, is therefore unnecessary, and will put an undue burden on many of the citizens of Montgomery County.

Sincerely,

Alice Hess  
Silver Spring, MD 20905

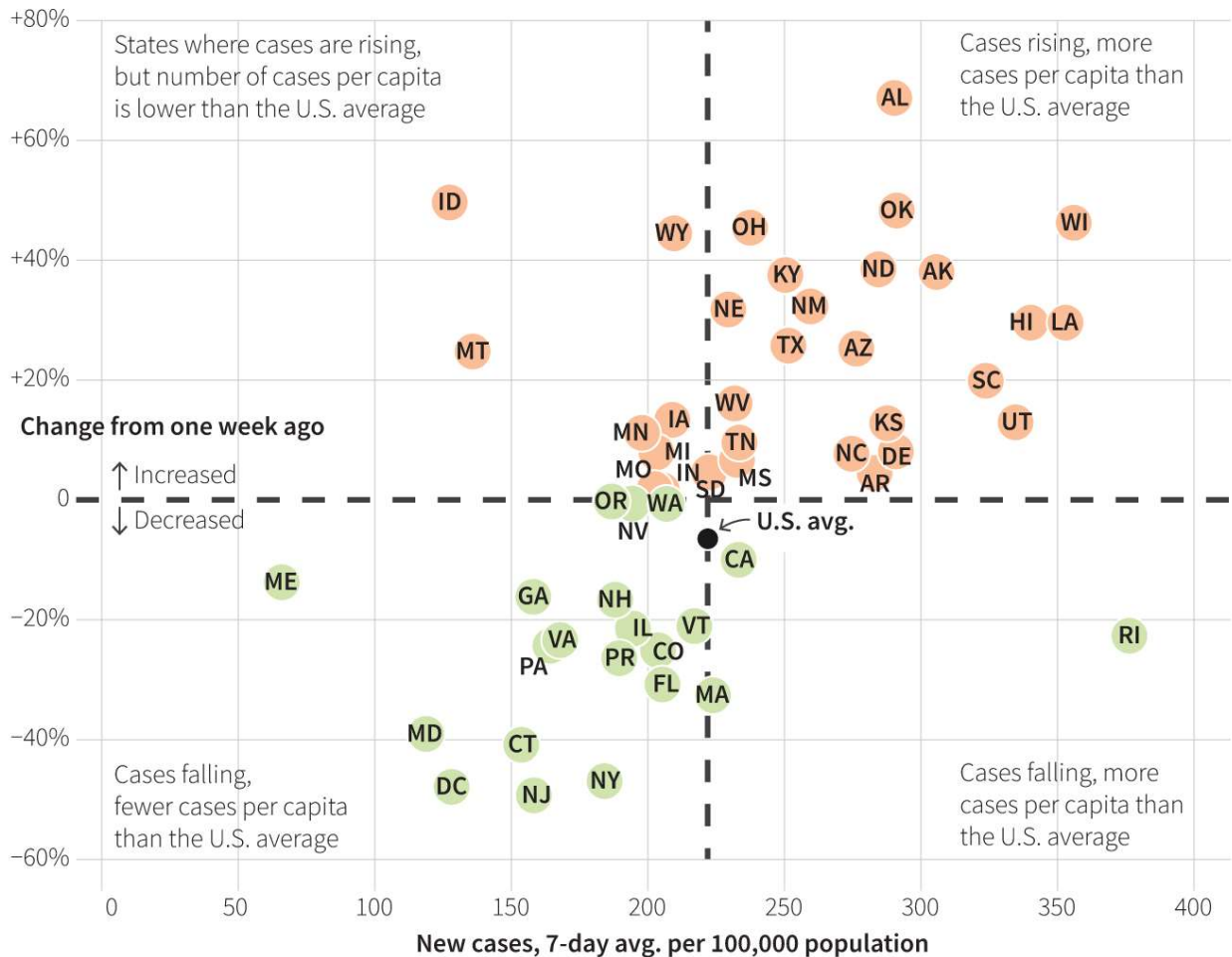
From Reuters:

## The U.S. states where Omicron is starting to retreat

The seven-day average of new coronavirus cases fell 7% in the United States in the last week. New York, New Jersey and Washington, D.C., which had some of the highest case rates during the latest surge, saw cases fall more than 40%. Cases continue to rise in other parts of the country.

### CHANGE IN NEW CASES PER 100,000 POPULATION AS OF JAN. 20, 2022

The number of cases fell in 19 states, plus Puerto Rico and Washington D.C.



Source: Reuters analysis of state and local data

C. Canipe, 21/01/2022