

BOARD OF HEALTH

for Madison and Dane County

Dr. Jerry Halverson, Chair
Kim Whitmore, Vice Chair
Robin Lankton, Second Vice Chair
Dane County Supervisor Holly Hatcher
Dr. Debbie Jones
City of Madison Alder Lindsay Lemmer

DATE: September 9, 2021

TO: Dane County Community

SUBJECT: RE: County Resolution 2021-RES 157

Dear Dane County Community Members,

We are writing this letter on behalf of the Board of Health for Madison and Dane County to oppose County Resolution 157. The Board finds it extremely disheartening that Supervisor Weigand has chosen to use his platform to bring forth a resolution that suggests that public health decisions aren't based on science, facts, and data. That is simply not true and further spreads misinformation.

Vivek Murthy, US Surgeon General warns against misinformation related to COVID-19, and “urg[es] all Americans to help slow the spread of health misinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.” He reminds citizens that “health misinformation is a serious threat to public health. It can cause confusion, sow mistrust, harm people’s health, and undermine public health efforts. Limiting the spread of health misinformation is a moral and civic imperative that will require a whole-of-society effort.”

Although we have made great progress with high vaccination rates in Dane County, we are still in an active global pandemic. The Board fully supports the use of Emergency Public Health Orders to continue to protect our Community. The orders are brought forth with thoughtful consideration of data by experienced and knowledgeable public health staff. Public Health deeply values the input of the community and key stakeholders and works hard to build relationships and engage with partners as much as possible. However, during an emergency situation, taking additional time to gather community input could result in additional harm.

As we continue to see people in Dane County become ill and die from COVID-19 we must do everything in our power to protect our fellow citizens. Wearing masks is simple and helps mitigate the spread of COVID-19. This is a proven fact. There is data to support it. Wearing a mask is the least we can do to try to eradicate this horrible disease and protect our fellow citizens. We should continue to follow the educated, trusted, expert guidance of our public health leaders in regards to these matters.

Sincerely,

Board of Health for Madison and Dane County

Dr. Jerry Halverson, Chair
Kim Whitmore, Vice Chair
Robin Lankton, Second Vice Chair
County Supervisor Holly Hatcher
Paula Tran Inzeo
Dr. Debbie Jones

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