

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: May 18, 2023

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: The Office of the County Executive

Subject: Report from the Office of the County Executive, providing information on current COVID-19 mitigation procedures, and the actions Milwaukee County is continuing to take to ensure it keeps its workforce and the people they serve safe.

File Type: Informational

BACKGROUND

Throughout the more than three years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the goal of Milwaukee County's COVID-19 pandemic management process was to continue County government operations and critical services for its residents, while keeping its staff and participants, as well as the wider community, safe. Milwaukee County government has many public-facing operations, often interacts with particularly vulnerable individuals, and is responsible for several of the largest congregate facilities in the county.

Over the three plus years of the pandemic, there have been many surges, many variants, and many challenges that the County faced head-on. The foundation of Milwaukee County's COVID-19 mitigation process was the CDC COVID-19 Community Level framework. Since February 16th Milwaukee County had been classified by the CDC as having "low community risk". As of May 11, 2023, the CDC has discontinued reporting the Community Risk model.

With the pandemic clearly entering a new phase, it was appropriate for the County to adapt accordingly. Based on the lower levels of risk, and the County's knowledge and ability to keep its employees and the people they serve safe, on May 9, 2023, County Executive David Crowley announced the end of the employee vaccine mandate and Milwaukee County's masking requirements in all County facilities.

NEXT STEPS

With the end of the vaccine mandate, county masking requirements and the CDC Community Risk model, the COVID-19 Workgroup has discontinued its work and will no longer meet. Internal and external websites are in the process of being updated to reflect the end of the mandate and other changes.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Mitigating the spread of COVID-19, and thus preventing further death and long-term negative health effects, was one of the most meaningful steps that Milwaukee County government could take in service of its Vision to become the healthiest county in Wisconsin. While the County must still address the disparities and negative health outcomes that are the result of decades of policy choices,

COVID-19 was a clear and present danger to the health and well-being of the County's constituents and employees. This framework not only worked to address the health aspects of the County's strategic plan, but also ensured that Milwaukee County was able to continue the work that its departments are undertaking to advance the strategic plan and work towards its Vision by providing critical services to its residents.

FISCAL EFFECT

Fiscal Note Not Required

TERMS

N/A

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

- kyle.caudill@milwaukeecountywi.gov
- beweston@mcw.edu
- peter.labonte@milwaukeecountywi.gov
- MaryJo.Meyers@milwaukeecountywi.gov

PREPARED BY:

Peter LaBonte, COVID-19 Workgroup Coordinator

APPROVED BY:

Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive

ATTACHMENTS:

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk