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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Marina Dimitrijevic
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Aldерwoman Dimitrijevic Introduces Plan to Combat the Spread of the Omicron Variant in Milwaukee

Plan would provide free at-home COVID-19 tests to all who want them and a \$100 incentive to get boosted

Milwaukee Alderwoman Marina Dimitrijevic has introduced a plan to slow the spread of the omicron COVID-19 variant in Milwaukee by providing free and accessible COVID-19 tests to any Milwaukee resident and providing a \$100 incentive for any Milwaukee resident who gets the vaccine or their booster.

“The rapid spread of COVID-19 in Milwaukee County, driven largely by the new omicron variant, is deeply concerning. But thankfully, we now have the tools we need to combat this virus and keep schools and businesses open,” said Alderwoman Dimitrijevic, chair of the Public Safety and Health Committee. “Under my plan, Milwaukee residents will have the ability to pick up free, at-home COVID-19 tests at public libraries throughout the city. I will also be introducing legislation to restart Milwaukee’s \$100 incentive system for anyone who gets vaccinated, and expanding that incentive to include booster shots. Slowing this latest wave of COVID-19 is not just a moral imperative, it’s a racial justice issue, as COVID-19 has continued to disproportionately impact Milwaukee’s Black and Brown communities. For the vaccinated and boosted, this rise in cases will require vigilance but with proper testing and masks should not require a full disruption of daily life. For the unvaccinated, COVID-19 remains a mortal threat. We must do all we can to get all Milwaukee residents vaccinated and boosted.”

-More-

Testing and booster incentive proposal/ADD ONE

As of December 21, **Milwaukee County remains in the “Extreme” transmission category** with an overall positivity rate of 12.6%. The City of Milwaukee previously conducted a \$100 incentive program for vaccinations and a similar program is currently being offered to students in Milwaukee Public Schools. Alderwoman Dimitrijevic’s proposal would restart that program and expand it to include booster shots, which have been shown to offer strong protection against serious illness and death from COVID-19. Providing free, at-home tests to be picked up at convenient locations throughout the city will help slow the spread of the virus and allow for more people to get tested, especially as a precautionary measure. Distribution will start at libraries but could expand to other public buildings as needed.

“None of us wanted to be thinking about COVID-19 for yet another holiday season, but if we take bold action now we can prevent the worst outcomes and keep schools and businesses open and thriving” added the alderwoman.

Alderwoman Dimitrijevic’s plan will be officially introduced as legislation when the Common Council returns in January.