



CITY OF MILWAUKEE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 20, 2021

## **Transparency, Insight and Dialogue Needed on Decision to Rescind Milwaukee's Public Health Order**

**Statement of Alderwoman Marina Dimitrijevic and Alderman Cavalier  
Johnson**

**May 20, 2021**

The announcement that the City of Milwaukee's emergency health order to combat the COVID-19 pandemic will end on June 1 came as a surprise to members the Common Council and city residents.

We all wish the pandemic were over as it has cost us all a great deal. Wishing, however, does not make it so and the virus remains among us. Worse, the rate of vaccination among city residents has clearly plateaued and new efforts must be deployed to reduce inequity and increase the overall vaccination rate.

To those, therefore, that made the decision to withdraw the orders, we would ask:

While communities like Madison and those in Door County are reporting vaccination rates above 60%, Milwaukee's is near 38%, and far lower for people of color. Was this considered? Was a metric considered to attach the lifting of the health order to such as an increase in vaccinations?

Children under 12 cannot yet be vaccinated and they make up nearly 15% of the city's population. Did the Administration consult with pediatricians regarding the potential consequences of nearly 60% of Milwaukeeans being unmasked and unvaccinated indoors, especially with unvaccinated children?

As a city, we have carefully followed the science during this pandemic. What science is being used to assert that unvaccinated individuals should be unmasked indoors at this time?

**A special meeting of the Public Safety and Health Committee is scheduled for 9 a.m. on May 26** to hear from the Mayor and Health Department to discuss the rescinding of our public health order, and – at the very least – hold a public hearing so the constituents we serve can offer up their views on how all of Milwaukee can be best kept safe. I encourage all residents to submit their questions and comments now via the e-comment option.

**-More-**

Those wishing to provide comments can utilize the City's e-comment feature by following these steps:

1. Visit [milwaukee.legistar.com/Calendar](http://milwaukee.legistar.com/Calendar).
2. Select the "e-comment" button across from the meeting during which the file will be heard. Meeting info is listed above.
3. Scroll down to the item number that corresponds to the desired file and click the "comment" button.
4. Fill in the necessary information, select a position and type a comment in the comment box. Note that comments are limited to 600 characters.
5. Hit submit.

Residents and other interested parties will be able to tune into this special meeting by watching the City Channel (channel 25 on Spectrum Cable and channel 99 on AT&T U-Verse in the City of Milwaukee) or via streaming video on the city website at [city.milwaukee.gov/Channel25](http://city.milwaukee.gov/Channel25).

In the meantime, I will continue to encourage those who are not yet vaccinated to take that very important step to help keep our community safe and healthy. You can visit <https://city.milwaukee.gov/CovidVax> for information on where you can get vaccinated, or call (414) 286-6800 to schedule an in-home vaccination.