

City & County of San Francisco
London N. Breed, Mayor



Office of the City Administrator
Carmen Chu, City Administrator
Jennifer Johnston, Interim Director
Mayor's Office on Disability

Dr. Susan Phillip
Health Officer
San Francisco Department of Public Health

June 18, 2024

Dear Dr. Philip,

The Mayor's Disability Council (MDC), wanted to thank you for your presentation at the public meeting on Friday, May 17, 2024. Your presentation on the COVID-19 Health Ordinance Update was informative and educational.

Our concern is the recent change to Covid-19 policies, relating to your decision to end the health order that required staff in healthcare settings to wear masks. The compelling stories during the public comment portion of the meeting from the disability community and organizations that serve them, such as Senior and Disability Action, conveyed persuasive arguments of the devastating impact that the end of the masking health order has had on the health and safety for these vulnerable populations.

The Council was moved by the testimonies they heard during public comment. We listened and considered all aspects of the information presented to us. We gave input and suggestions to try and produce the best outcome that could adapt to everyone's needs.

You mentioned in your presentation that the pandemic is ongoing. Why was the decision made to end the mask mandate? Making a change to protocols and procedures would absolutely impact and present a danger to those populations.

As you know, there is a new strain of Covid-19 outbreak currently in the city and county of San Francisco. Health, safety, and wellbeing should never be jeopardized.

As a result of the decision, seniors and adults with disabilities, along with other groups that suffer from chronic/immune diseases, will have no choice but to stay at home and not be able to access medical care.

The Council strongly encourages you to reconsider the decision and suggests that you partner with community leaders and advocates in looking towards alternate resolutions to this problem.

With that spirit in mind, the MDC recommends the following:

- Have Health care providers/staff wear the recommended appropriate masks as needed.

Our hope and intent are that this recommendation start a dialogue towards a resolution that can protect everyone, and to ensure that no population is left behind.

These valuable populations need to be protected!

We appreciate your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Denise Senhaux, Member
Mayor's Disability Council (MDC)

CC: Jennifer Johnston, Interim Director, Mayor's Office on Disability