
Mayor's Disability Council



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RESOLUTION # 2022 – 02 MAYOR'S DISABILITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE MASK REQUIREMENT ON SF MUNI

WHEREAS, COVID continues to pose a significant risk, currently averaging more than 98,000 new cases per day. The risk is highest for immunocompromised and disabled people, fat/higher-weight people, seniors, people of color, low-income people, and essential workers— all groups of people that rely heavily on public transit.

WHEREAS, BART made an important choice to protect ALL riders when they reinstated the mask mandate. On June 2, 2022, Alameda County moved to reinstate its indoor mask mandate. Having consistency across Bay Area Transit is important for giving transit riders clarity and encouraging safe practices.

WHEREAS, safe and accessible public transportation is a right affirmed by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the

Americans with Disabilities Act, and the 2015 decision to make MUNI free for low and moderate-income seniors and people with disabilities.

WHEREAS, evidence shows that even if a high-risk person wears a mask, they will not be adequately protected if they are surrounded by unmasked people. This means that many seniors, disabled people, immunocompromised people, children under 5, and friends and family members of people in these groups can no longer safely use this essential service.

WHEREAS, close to 11% of the population are either too young to be vaccinated or did not mount a robust immune response to vaccines. This doesn't include everyone who is at high risk for severe illness from COVID due to certain health conditions, which could be anything from having type 2 diabetes to having cancer. Between 10% and 30% of people with COVID infections—including many fully vaccinated people with only mild COVID—go on to develop long COVID, a condition that is often debilitating. And it doesn't account for the race and class disparities of a disease that has disproportionately killed Black, Latinx, and Indigenous people.

WHEREAS, local public transit policy should prioritize the safety of those who are at the greatest risk of severe illness from COVID, which in turn will benefit everyone. Bus drivers and train operators will be safer in their jobs. Children will be safer traveling to school, and they will be less likely to bring COVID home to their family members. Essential workers will be less likely to bring COVID to their workplaces, protecting their coworkers and the general public. Seniors will be less isolated at home. Black and Latinx people, who have lost an average of almost 3 and 4 years in life expectancy

respectively during the pandemic, will live longer lives as a result.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MDC supports the reinstatement of the mask requirement on SF Muni, including buses, trains, trolleys, and Paratransit.

Approved by the Mayor's Disability Council, June 21, 2022