

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to prohibit certain establishments and facilities from permitting guests, visitors, or customers over 12 years old from entering their indoor premises without displaying proof of vaccination against COVID-19.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Public Health Protections Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2022.”

Sec. 2. (a) Finding that the COVID-19 pandemic, including the exponential spread of the Omicron variant, threatened the health and welfare of District residents, workers, and visitors, and to overwhelm the District’s hospital capacity, the Mayor issued, on December 22, 2021, Mayor’s Order 2021-148.

(b) Observing that it was “critically important that the District take immediate measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and its health impacts to avoid straining our health care facilities and hospitals and to avoid collateral health impacts on persons not suffering from COVID-19 but whose care is affected by COVID-19,” the Order prohibited unvaccinated persons from entering enumerated facilities and establishments to engage in non-exempted activities.

37 (c) On February 14, 2022, without consulting with the Council of the District of
38 Columbia, without warning, without giving reasons tied to the status of healthcare access in the
39 District, and without regard for the needs of vulnerable residents, including young children and
40 immunocompromised individuals, the Mayor announced that the proof of vaccination
41 requirement established by her earlier order would no longer be in effect as of February 15,
42 2022.

43 (d) The Mayor did so despite children younger than five being unable to access any
44 COVID-19 vaccine, immunocompromised individuals still being at risk, long COVID still
45 decimating District residents, and there being little access to treatments for COVID-19 available
46 in the District.

47 (e) The Mayor did so despite the District's State Epidemiologist, Dr. Anil Mangla,
48 testifying just last week that restaurants and bars remain a leading source of COVID-19
49 transmission in the District and stating that a bar was putting the community at risk by refusing
50 to enforce the District's vaccine mandate. Dr. Mangla stated that the District was "nowhere near"
51 where it should be to lift mandates.

52 (f) The aforementioned circumstances have made it clear that the vaccine requirement
53 established by the Mayor's Order is still necessary to protect District residents.

54 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
55 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary to prohibit
56 certain establishments and facilities from permitting guests, visitors, or customers over 12 years
57 old from entering their indoor premises without displaying proof of vaccination against COVID-
58 19.

59 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.