

Other Business

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 22, 2021

Subject: COVID-19 Vaccination or Testing Protocols for Council Members, Resolution No. 2021-29

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. § 473.123, subs. 1 and 4(d)

Staff Prepared/Presented: Charles A. Zelle, Chair, 651-602-1390

Division/Department: Chair's Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Resolution No. 2021-29, pertaining to COVID-19 vaccination or testing protocols for Council Members.

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to present an unprecedented challenge to our Region and State. In order to protect the health and safety of State employees and customers, the State of Minnesota has adopted a policy requiring employees who are accessing the workplace or providing agency services outside of their homes to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or undergo mandatory COVID-19 testing at least weekly. Likewise, as of October 11, 2021, the Council will require its employees to comply with a vaccination or testing procedure.

Rationale

In order to protect employees, customers, and the public at large, public and private employers across the country are requiring COVID-19 vaccinations or regular testing. As Council Members who frequently interact with our employees, members of the public, and others, we should take reasonable measures to mitigate transmission of the COVID-19 virus and help ensure the safety of those with whom we meet and interact.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Adopting this Resolution meets the *Thrive* principles of integration, collaboration, and accountability. This Resolution will align expectations of Council Members with that of Council and State employees for the protection of staff, the public, and the region.

Funding

There is no cost to the Council for Council Member compliance with this Resolution.

Known Support / Opposition

Chair Zelle supports this Resolution.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

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RESOLUTION NO. 2021-29

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL'S INTENTION FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS TO FOLLOW COVID-19 VACCINATION OR TESTING PROTOCOLS WHEN IN COUNCIL BUILDINGS OR IN THE PUBLIC ACTING IN THEIR OFFICIAL CAPACITIES

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to present an unprecedented challenge to our Region and State because the virus is highly contagious, including among asymptomatic people;

WHEREAS, to protect, to the extent reasonably possible, the health and safety of State employees and customers, the State of Minnesota has adopted a policy to require employees who are accessing the workplace or providing agency services outside of their homes to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or undergo mandatory COVID-19 testing at least weekly;

WHEREAS, to protect the health and safety of Council employees and customers from the threat of COVID-19, as of October 11, 2021, the Council is requiring its employees who are assigned to work at the workplace (rather than at-home telework) need to access the workplace for more than 10 minutes, or otherwise provide Council services outside their home, to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or undergo COVID-19 testing at least weekly; and

WHEREAS, the Council requires its employees and others to wear masks when working in Council buildings and facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Chair and Council Members (collectively "Council Members") seek to provide the same protections to the public and Council staff when performing their Council duties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That Council Members who are in Council buildings or participating in meetings in public in their official Council capacities are expected to comply with one of the following beginning October 11, 2021:

- 1) Be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. According to the CDC, a person is fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their second dose of a 2-dose COVID-19 vaccination series approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") or World Health Organization ("WHO"); or 2 weeks after a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine approved by the FDA or the WHO. Or,
- 2) Submit to weekly COVID-19 testing as needed. Council Members must submit to COVID-19 testing by 11:59 p.m. on Thursday for any following week in which the Council Member will be in Council buildings or meeting in public in their official Council

capacities. The first testing deadline is Thursday, October 7, 2021, for the week beginning Monday, October 11, 2021. The testing requirement will continue until a Council Member is fully vaccinated or the Chair determines that such testing is no longer necessary.

Council Members will continue to wear masks in all Council facilities. Temporary removal of masks in Council facilities is allowed when eating or drinking and physical distancing is maintained and when the Council Member is alone in an office, room, or cubicle (with walls higher than face level and physical distancing is maintained).

Adopted this 22nd day of September 2021.

Charles A. Zelle, Chair

Liz Sund, Recording Secretary