



Legislation Text

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MOTION, submitted by Councilmember Landsman, Beating COVID-19 and Helping to Reopen Schools Safely; We have lost 77 Cincinnatians to COVID-19 and our 14-day average of new cases remains close to Many efforts, including a requirement to wear masks, have helped to lower new cases. However, we are not currently beating COVID-19. Cases have spiked before, and we continue to get new cases every day. As a result, more people will lose their lives, our economy cannot fully reopen, and children and teachers cannot go back to school normally.; To change course, and to do so in a way that could help schools reopen safely, we must act now to significantly reduce if not eliminate daily new cases and hospitalizations.; As such, WE MOVE that the Administrations work with the Cincinnati Health Department (CHD), Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS), and other regional and state partners to: * Supporting and Partnering with CPS on Reopening. In an effort to better support the district, attempt to determine what resources the District needs from the city, and what the City's 14-day average of new cases must be in order for CPS parents, teachers, and Administrators to return to school safely. The Mayor and/or Councilmembers could assist in this effort and help support a working group that would tackle this question of new cases as well as issues of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and testing and tracing supports that the District may need. We can work together to achieve the lowest possible 14-day average of new cases while helping CPS with health- and safety-related supports, our children and teachers will be more likely to be able to return to school normally and safely. * Increased Enforcement to Address Non-Compliance. Determine what additional resources CHD will require to increase enforcement of mask requirements and the guidelines and policies relative to indoor gatherings, including bars and restaurants. Administration and CHD should also work with local bar and restaurant owners to determine if additional changes need to be made. The goal should be to focus on problematic and noncompliant locations and strengthen safety guidelines based on data and science. This could help avoid a closure of indoor bars and restaurants while keeping everyone safe.; * Working with community partners to develop plans together to address large indoor gatherings, from house parties to weddings. With university students returning to campus this fall, we need a plan to address concerns that house parties will only get worse, not better. If tracing data suggests that these large gatherings are in fact an issue, how can we afford to continue to ignore them? At the very least, the Administration should provide Council with options to address these private and large (often indoor) gatherings. * Make it Easier to Open Outdoor Spaces. While Council has already passed legislation on the issue of making it easier for bars and restaurants to open up spaces outdoors, and a great deal of work by the Administration and Mayor has gone into helping many bars and restaurants to have additional outdoor capacity, the Administration should determine if more must be done by Council to reduce or eliminate permitting fees and bureaucracy to increase the number of businesses utilizing outdoor options for their patrons.; * Expand, Coordinate, and Make Public Tracing Efforts. While the Administration and Mayor have been working through this, we need more robust and fully transparent contact tracing efforts and we should do so with our county and state partners. The Administration should work with CHD and the County and the State to determine what additional tracing needs our local public health professionals need, how best to fill existing tracing positions that remain unfilled, develop best practice questionnaires and engagement strategies of those who test positive, and streamline and improve data gathering and analytics to provide policy- makers and our community with the best information possible for changes that will help us beat COVID-19.; Considering the urgency of these matter, we ask that the Administrations report to Council on each item within the next 14 days.

ADOPT