

From: Eric Hettler <enhettler@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2020 9:20 AM
To: Veldran, Lisa
Subject: 6/2/2020 CCEC Public Comment: Support of PHMDC's Phased Forward Dane Plan

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Dear Common Council Executive Committee,

I am writing in support of Public Health Madison Dane County's Forward Dane Plan and the Phase 1 reopening plan.

As a Madison resident, I have been extremely impressed with PHMDC's transparency during the COVID-19 epidemic. They have been providing detailed information through their dashboard and data snapshots, and they have been very responsive to every question posed to them on social media. It is clear they have many thoughtful experts working tirelessly to keep Dane County safe.

Given their transparency and expertise, I was surprised and disappointed to see the letter issued on May 25th by some City Council members and Dane County supervisors that questions the merits of the Forward Dane plan for reopening. The letter does raise some important questions, but those questions have been repeatedly answered by PHMDC through their public releases. Intentional or not, the letter undercuts the work of PHMDC and inappropriately elevates the voice of a few individuals who lack expertise in epidemiology. At a time when the response at the national and state level has been so chaotic, the very public nature of the letter was unhelpful.

The Forward Dane plan seems to be well-grounded in science. The Data Snapshots provided by PHMDC mention they relied on expertise from the CDC, WHO, Harvard Global Health Institute, and Wisconsin DHS to develop their metrics. The metrics are tailored to our local situation, which seems like the most appropriate step since responsibility for the response has been placed on individual counties and municipalities. No plan is going to be perfect, but the plan released by PHMDC seems to be a reasonable and scientifically based plan that protects the health of Dane County residents.

COVID-19 and the haphazard nature of the response at the state and national level have been very troubling for everyone. A unified response from the City Council would go very far in alleviating some of the confusion and concern for the residents of Madison. I hope you are all able to reach an agreement that supports the experts at PHMDC.

Regards,

Eric Hettler
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