



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 13, 2021

**Masks**

FRESNO—The Fresno County Democratic Party calls on Fresno Mayor Jerry Dyer to help protect our region by requiring that all medically eligible city employees be vaccinated. The new City Hall Covid protocols requiring masks be worn inside, along with symptom testing and routine Covid tests for unvaccinated employees, starting next week is a step in the right direction, but it is not enough.

The irresponsible decision by thousands of Fresnans to not take the Covid vaccine is inflicting a terrible cost on the rest of us. Our city government needs to do far more to fight against this wave of selfish and destructive inaction.

Simply asking employees who have decided to risk the lives of others to wear a sticker on their badge does nothing to protect vulnerable people who might be required to be in a room with such individuals. And if these unvaccinated persons later wind up in our dangerously crowded hospitals, people with other injuries and diseases suffer from reduced resources.

Some city officials have threatened that if an official vaccine policy were put in place, too many city employees would choose to abandon their jobs. However, if an employee would resign over being asked to help the community, how can we trust that such an employee was ever performing faithfully as a public servant?

At this point, choosing to be unvaccinated is morally equivalent to drunk driving. If you make that choice, you might well skate by on luck and have nothing bad happen, but you could easily kill yourself or other people around you. Choosing to drive while drunk is a terrible offense, and we should begin looking at choosing to remain unvaccinated in the same light.

This is not a matter of opinion; it is a matter of the common defense and general welfare for not only our city, state and country but also the entire world. Unvaccinated people are the reservoir from which new Covid variants will emerge, threatening to ruin all our work and our sacrifices.

Mayor Dyer still has time to make this decision about vaccine mandates. We hope he makes the right one. Residents of Fresno County and the state of California are paying the cost for each day we wait.

For more information, contact the Fresno County Democratic Party at [559-495-0606](tel:559-495-0606) or [dems@fresnocountydemocrats.org](mailto:dems@fresnocountydemocrats.org).