



January 5, 2022

Johnson County Board of Commissioners
111 S. Cherry Street
Suite 3000
Olathe, KS 66061

Dear Johnson County Board of County Commissioners:

The Omicron variant has hit our County hard and COVID-19 percent positivity rates exceed 22% as of the date of this letter.¹ This surge is creating stress on our local hospital systems, as well as other institutions, like our city operations and local public schools. While it is our sincere hope that Omicron will “peak” soon and cases will begin trending downward, things are unfortunately likely to get worse before they get better.

The Board of Commissioners acts as the Johnson County Board of Health and has the resources and expertise of the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment to guide its path. While our cities have taken different approaches in response to COVID, we share the collective belief that additional prompt action is needed by the Board to assist our cities in weathering this latest and strongest COVID surge. Across Johnson County, we in particular see a great need for increased testing capabilities (with timely results available), further education on the importance of vaccine boosters in light of Omicron, and additional education regarding and access to high quality masks (KN95/N95).

We appreciate the tireless work of JCDHE and the leadership of the Board of County Commissioners since March 2020 in seeing Johnson County through the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope that you will take action at your meeting on Thursday, January 6th to expand meaningful mitigation and prevention strategies in response to Omicron. Thank you for your service to our community.

Respectfully,

Peggy Dunn, Mayor of Leawood
Sollie Flora, Mayor of Mission
Darrell Franklin, Mayor of Mission Woods
Mike Kelly, Mayor of Roeland Park
Eric Mikkelson, Mayor of Prairie Village
Bob Pape, Mayor of Merriam
Paula Schwach, Mayor of Westwood Hills
Curt Skoog, Mayor of Overland Park
David Waters, Mayor of Westwood