



SUBJECT

Expedited Bill 17-20, Carryout Bag Tax – Suspension
Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Jawando
Co-Sponsor: Councilmembers Rice and Albornoz, Council President Katz, and Councilmembers Riemer, Navarro and Friedson

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Public Hearing followed by Action – Council vote expected

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

On March 5, 2020, Lawrence Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland issued a proclamation declaring a state of emergency and existence of a catastrophic public health emergency due to the novel coronavirus which can cause the respiratory disease COVID-19.

Expedited Bill 17-20 would suspend the imposition of the carryout bag tax until 15 days after the conclusion of the Maryland state of emergency. Within 7 days after the state of emergency ceases, Bill 17-20 would require the County Executive to notify retail establishments and the public of the date on which the imposition of the carryout bag tax will resume.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- None

This report contains:

Staff Report	Page 1
Expedited Bill 17-20	©1
Legislative Request Report	©3
Correspondence	
Pro	©5
Con	©12
Rice amendment	©19

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MEMORANDUM

April 9, 2020

TO: County Council

FROM: Amanda Mihill, Legislative Attorney

SUBJECT: Expedited Bill 17-20, Carryout Bag Tax – Suspension

PURPOSE: Public Hearing/Action – Council vote required¹

Expedited Bill 17-20, Carryout Bag Tax – Suspension, sponsored by Lead Sponsor Councilmember Jawando and Co-Sponsors Councilmembers Rice and Albornoz, Council President Katz, and Councilmembers Riemer, Navarro and Friedson was introduced on March 31. A public hearing is scheduled for April 14; Council action is tentatively scheduled immediately following the public hearing.

On March 5, 2020, Lawrence Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland issued a proclamation declaring a state of emergency and existence of a catastrophic public health emergency due to the novel coronavirus which can cause the respiratory disease COVID-19.

Expedited Bill 17-20 would suspend the imposition of the carryout bag tax until 15 days after the conclusion of the Maryland state of emergency. Within 7 days after the state of emergency ceases, Bill 17-20 would require the County Executive to notify retail establishments and the public of the date on which the imposition of the carryout bag tax will resume.

Correspondence Received

The Council has received correspondence from residents that support and oppose Bill 17-20. The Maryland Retailers Association submitted a letter in support of Bill 17-20 (©7-8). Those that support Bill 17-20 generally agree that using reusable bags during this public health emergency is concerning (©5-11). Residents that oppose Bill 17-20 express concerns related to the environment (©12-18).

Rice Amendment

At the appropriate time, Councilmember Rice intends to offer the amendment on ©19 which would state that:

¹ #SuspendBagTax

During the state of emergency and during the 15 days after the state of emergency ceases, an employee of a retail establishment must not be required to place purchases in any container, including a reusable bag, that a customer provides.

Other amendments

Council staff understands that the Lead Sponsor may be working on other amendments to Bill 17-20. Council staff will provide an addendum staff report when those amendments are available.

This packet contains:	<u>Circle #</u>
Expedited Bill 17-20	1
Legislative Request Report	3
Lead Sponsor memorandum	4
Correspondence	
Pro	5
Con	12
Rice amendment	19

Expedited Bill No. 17-20
Concerning: Carryout Bag Tax –
Suspension
Revised: 3/30/2020 Draft No. 1
Introduced: March 31, 2020
Expires: October 1, 2021
Enacted: [date]
Executive: [date signed]
Effective: [date takes effect]
Sunset Date: See Section 1
Ch. [#], Laws of Mont. Co. [year]

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Jawando
Co-Sponsors: Councilmembers Rice and Albornoz,
Council President Katz, and Councilmembers Riemer and Navarro

AN EXPEDITED ACT to:

- (1) suspend the imposition of the carryout bag tax until a certain date; and
- (2) generally amend County law concerning the carryout bag tax.

By adding to the 2020 Laws of Montgomery County

Boldface

Underlining

[Single boldface brackets]

Double underlining

[[Double boldface brackets]]

* * *

Heading or defined term.

Added to existing law by original bill.

Deleted from existing law by original bill.

Added by amendment.

Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.

Existing law unaffected by bill.

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

1 **Sec. 1. The following is added to the 2020 Laws of Montgomery County:**

2 (a) *Background.*

3 (1) On March 5, 2020, Lawrence Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland
4 issued a proclamation declaring a state of emergency and existence
5 of a catastrophic public health emergency due to the novel
6 coronavirus which can cause the respiratory disease COVID-19.

7 (2) In 2011, the County imposed a carryout bag tax and requires retail
8 establishments to collect the tax and remit it to the County.

9 (3) Due to the health concerns associated with the novel coronavirus,
10 some retail establishments are prohibiting customers from using
11 disposable bags.

12 (b) *Suspension of carryout bag tax.*

13 (1) The carryout bag tax is suspended, and a retail establishment must
14 not collect the tax, until 15 days after the state of emergency
15 ceases.

16 (2) Within 7 days after the state of emergency ceases, the County
17 Executive must notify retail establishments and the public of the
18 date on which the imposition of the carryout bag tax will resume.

19 (3) During the suspension of the carryout bag tax, a retail
20 establishment must continue to remit and report on any tax
21 collected as required under Section 52-79.

22 (4) Nothing in this Act should be interpreted to require a retail service
23 establishment to allow a customer to use a reusable bag.

24 **Sec. 2. Expedited Effective Date.**

25 The Council declares that this legislation is necessary for the immediate
26 protection of the public interest. This Act takes effect on the date on which it becomes
27 law.

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST REPORT

Expedited Bill 17-20 *Carryout Bag Tax – Suspension*

DESCRIPTION:	Bill 17-20 would suspend the imposition of the carryout bag tax until a certain date and generally amend County law concerning the carryout bag tax.
PROBLEM:	Due to the health concerns associated with the novel coronavirus, some retail establishments are prohibiting customers from using disposable bags.
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:	To temporarily suspend the imposition of the carryout bag tax.
COORDINATION:	Finance
FISCAL IMPACT:	Office of Management and Budget
ECONOMIC IMPACT:	Office of Legislative Oversight
EVALUATION:	To be researched.
EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE:	To be researched.
SOURCE OF INFORMATION:	Amanda Mihill, Legislative Attorney (240) 777-7815
APPLICATION WITHIN MUNICIPALITIES:	To be researched.
PENALTIES:	N/A



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

WILL JAWANDO
COUNCILMEMBER
AT-LARGE

Memorandum

To: Councilmembers, Chiefs of Staff
From: Councilmember Will Jawando
Date: March 30, 2020
Re: Bill xx-20, Carry-out Bag Tax Suspension

Covid-19 has caused a myriad of issues in our community that affect residents from all walks of life. Social distancing and limiting contact in public places, person to person as well as the surfaces we touch, are key to reducing the spread of the virus.

I am introducing Bill xx-20, Carry-out Bag Tax Suspension as an Expedited Act during the Covid-19 pandemic. Some retail establishments, including some grocery stores, are currently prohibiting customers from using their personal reusable bags in stores. It is possible that more establishments will adopt the same policy soon. Handling reusable bags presents a potential public health risk to those employees who must bag items for customers, as well as to the customers themselves. Suspending the carry-out bag tax during the Covid-19 pandemic allows store bags to be used at no charge to customers which will hopefully minimize risk.

Bill xx-20 suspends the carryout bag tax and a retail establishment cannot collect the tax until 15 days after the state of emergency ceases. The County Executive must notify retail establishments and the public of the date that the carryout bag tax will resume within 7 days after the state of emergency for Covid-19 ceases.

While the carryout bag tax does generate some revenue for the County, the health and safety of all Montgomery County residents must come first. Covid-19 represents a threat that has never been seen before and we must act accordingly. I am asking each of my Council colleagues to join me in support of this bill. Thank you.

Email Viewer

Message	Details	Attachments	Headers
Source			

[HTML](#)

From: "Ellen Exelbert" <eexelbert@gmail.com>
Date: 4/2/2020 1:33:13 PM
To: "Montgomery County Council" <county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov>
Cc:
Subject: plastic bag ban - for health and safety of your most vulnerable residents, stop taxing.

If liberal San Franciscan can permit plastic grocery bags again, without penalty, surely MoCo can.
Plastic grocery bags are not single use. We reuse them in trashcans to hold diapers - both adult and baby - and tie securely, as well as a slew of other items that plastic can hold securely that paper cannot.
I do believe we can buy compostable plastic bags for groceries, can't we?

Ellen Exelbert

Close

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[HTML](#)

From: "NICHOLAS FLEISCHER" <nickfleischer@usa.net>
Date: 4/5/2020 11:08:19 AM
To: "county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov" <county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov>
Cc:
Subject: suspend bag tax

I urge the County Council to immediately suspend the bag tax and not wait until April 14. This is just another reason why this pandemic is lingering. Our government, except for our Governor, procrastinates in making serious decisions that could save lives.

Nicholas Fleischer
12 Chancelet Ct.
Rockville, MD 20852

Close



April 1, 2020

The Honorable Montgomery County
Council President and Council Members
Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: Expedited Bill 17-20, Carryout Bag Tax – Suspension

Dear Council President Sidney Katz and Honorable Members of the Montgomery County Council,

On behalf of the Maryland Retailers Association and Maryland Food Industry Council, which represents grocers and various food stores across Maryland, we are in full support of Councilman Will Jawando’s legislation temporarily suspending the fee on bags. Retail and grocery employees, much like health care professionals, are on the front lines of providing necessary services during this unprecedented time and we must do everything in our power to protect them. Many of our stores are not allowing consumers to bring in reusable bags which forces consumers into a fee they cannot avoid.

The NIH reported on March 17th of this year, “the virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is stable for several hours to days in aerosols and on surfaces, according to a new study from National Institutes of Health, CDC, UCLA and Princeton University scientists in *The New England Journal of Medicine*. The scientists found that severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) was detectable in aerosols for up to three hours, up to four hours on copper, up to 24 hours on cardboard and up to two to three days on plastic and stainless steel. The results provide key information about the stability of SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19 disease, and suggests that people may acquire the virus through the air and after touching contaminated objects.”

The CDC reports that it may be possible that a person can contract COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. Further points are made below via various studies in the US regarding reusable bags:

- In a 2018 study by the Loma Linda University School of Public Health, researchers sprayed reusable polypropylene grocery bags with a safe norovirus surrogate and asked grocery store customers to shop with the bags. The researchers then swabbed surfaces touched by the shoppers. They found the virus surrogate everywhere — on food packages, fresh produce, cart handles, checkout touch screens and checkout clerks. The highest concentrations were on the hands of both the store clerks and the shoppers. Most importantly, “Even the lowest average concentration of virus particles detected on any surface in the study would represent a virus transmission risk for most individuals.”
- A study by the University of Arizona found that 51% of all reusable bags contained coliform bacteria, and 12% contained E. coli, indicating the presence of fecal matter and

other pathogens. The same study found that **97% of individuals admitted that they never washed their reusable bags.**

- In 2013, millions of American piglets died amid an outbreak of novel swine enteric coronavirus disease, and after an investigation the U.S. Department of Agriculture concluded that reusable feed totes were the most likely root cause. The feed bags are often made of the same kind of material as reusable shopping bags (polypropylene).
- California researchers studying the potential of reusable bags to transmit infectious diseases found that a contaminated reusable bag would cross-contaminate any surface it came into contact with, putting nine out of 10 people who go to that grocery store at risk of infection.

Additionally, due to increased shopping, retailers are unsure at this time about the long-term availability of reusable bags given that most of the permissible bags are only available from overseas manufacturers. Supply for plant-based food trays has also become unpredictable due to global demand and unsteady supply chains due to the global pandemic.

Please know that this request is not taken lightly as MRA worked hard to support legislation establishing a plastic ban and ten cent fee on paper this legislative session. However, we believe it is in the best interest of the thousands of retail employees across the state that have little to no access to personal protective equipment as they repeatedly come in contact with potentially contagious shoppers that Maryland's bans and fees be lifted until the pandemic has subsided.

Numerous states and localities across the country have already moved forward with these suspensions, including New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts.

We thank you for your consideration and leadership during this challenging time. We look forward to working with you and your teams to best serve our communities safely and efficiently.

Sincerely,



Cailey E. Locklair
President

From: Katz's Office, Councilmember [Councilmember.Katz@montgomerycountymd.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 11:56:16 AM
To: Council President
Subject: Fw: Bag Tax during COVID19

From: Laura Quigley <lmquigley@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 10:11 AM
To: Katz's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Katz@montgomerycountymd.gov>
Subject: Bag Tax during COVID19

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Council Member Katz -- I sent the following message to the County Executive and I am sharing it with you as well, since you are president of the County Council. Would you please bring this to the County Council and consider it?

I'd like to talk to you about abandoning the County Bag Tax in light of the COVID19 pandemic. Reuseable bags are a health hazard. They can harbor bacteria and disease for long periods of time, and are rarely if ever washed thoroughly. On a recent trip to my local Safeway I learned that, for the health and safety of their employees, they will no longer bag your groceries if you bring your own bags. I do not think it is wise, helpful, or healthy for Montgomery County Government to continue to impose the Bag Tax on citizens, especially at risk seniors and others with compromised immune systems. For this reason I ask you to consider a ban on the Bag Tax.

https://gazette.com/premium/editorial-to-slow-viral-spread-ban-the-plastic-bans/article_61450414-6f09-11ea-810d-4b9f02867b3d.html

<https://www.bostonherald.com/2020/03/22/adriana-cohen-bay-states-plastic-bag-ban-dangerous-amid-covid-19-pandemic/>

Thank you.
--Laura Quigley
Montgomery Village



Laura Quigley
President at QUIGLEY PERMITS & CONSULTING, INC.

Address 20412 Sawgrass Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20886
Mobile 301.674.5028**Email** lmquigley@gmail.com



<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/census/>

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Source			

[HTML](#)

From: "Council President" <Council.President@montgomerycountymd.gov>
 Date: 4/7/2020 11:37:00 AM
 To: "County Council" <County.Council@montgomerycountymd.gov>
 Cc:
 Subject: Fw: Protect County Residents From the Coronavirus: Repeal the Plastic Bag Tax Immediately and Permanently

From: paul4schil@aol.com <paul4schil@aol.com>
 Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 6:18 PM
 To: Marc Elrich <Marc.Elrich@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Albornoz's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Albornoz@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Friedson's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Glass's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Glass@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Hucker's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Hucker@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Jawando's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Jawando@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Katz's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Katz@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Navarro's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Navarro@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Rice's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Rice@montgomerycountymd.gov>; Riemer's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Riemer@montgomerycountymd.gov>
 Subject: Protect County Residents From the Coronavirus: Repeal the Plastic Bag Tax Immediately and Permanently

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Repeal the County plastic bag tax now - here's why.

Recently I wrote to various Council members requesting repeal of the plastic bag tax as a public health measure in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. As you know, one purpose of the tax was to force County residents to use "recyclable" cloth bags in lieu of plastic. We now learn that the use of other-than-new plastic bags at the grocery store increases the risk of transmission of the coronavirus. Because of this threat, County grocery stores are now refusing to allow their employees to pack groceries into "recyclable" bags. In these circumstances, it is imperative that we do all we can to encourage use of plastic bags at all County business establishments, most especially grocery stores. The easiest, speediest and most effective way to do this is to repeal the County plastic bag tax.

Admittedly that tax is one of the signature items of your Democratic Party's political agenda (there was no citizen groundswell movement for its enactment) and while it hasn't made a noticeable difference in County environment, it has served to fatten County tax coffers, thereby giving you more money to spend. As such, I realize that it will be hard for you to repeal it. Nonetheless I would ask to muster the political courage to do so: put the health and safety of your County residents above your party's political agenda..

If you need an example to follow (or political cover for your action), you need look no further than San Francisco. Its government and Democratic Party are among the most hard-left, socialist in the country. They serve as source of ideas and an example for those in the Maryland State and Montgomery County Democratic parties who wish to push us further leftward towards socialism. Yet this week San Francisco "reversed Its 13-year ban on plastic bags and will now prohibit the reusable bags city leaders once championed because of the coronavirus" ("San Francisco Reverses Ban on Plastic Bags As Part of Effort to Stop Virus" - 3 April 2020 Washington Times, p. A4). The story goes on to note that similar action has been taken by New Hampshire, Illinois, Massachusetts and Maine as well as by several coffee shop chains including Starbucks and Peets Coffee.

Follow the example of San Francisco and others. For our County residents' health, repeal the tax immediately and permanently.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Paul Schilling
4515 Delmont Lane
Bethesda 20814

[<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/mcg/Resources/Images/2020-Census.png>]
<<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/census/>>
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/census/>

[<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcg/Resources/Images/COVID-email.jpg>]
<<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/coronavirus>>
<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/coronavirus>

Close

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[HTML](#)

From: "Diane DeFries" <dianeyleft@gmail.com>
Date: 4/7/2020 10:17:23 AM
To: "County.Council@montgomerycountymd.gov" <County.Council@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov>
Cc:
Subject: From a Montgomery Country Citizen -- Expedited Bill 17-20, Carryout Bag Tax Suspension

Dear Montgomery County Council,

I am writing as a citizen concerned about Expedited Bill 17-20, Carryout Bag Tax Suspension, which would "suspend the imposition of the carryout bag tax until a certain date."

When we get through the coronavirus situation, we will still have a Climate Emergency to deal with. I am sure you know the reasons that single-use plastics are dangerous. I encourage you not to suspend the fee on the plastic bags. We cannot lose sight of the bigger, maybe the biggest, picture. Sending the message that encourages use of single-use plastic bags is throwing out the baby with the bath water.

Thank you for your consideration,

Diane DeFries
505 S Horners Lane
Rockville, MD

Close

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[HTML](#)

From: "John Fay" <jhfay2@gmail.com>
Date: 4/4/2020 1:31:08 PM
To: "county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov" <county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov>
Cc:
Subject: Plastic bag fee

Montgomery County Council:

How could you so readily give up the fee after just a little pushback? Couldn't you have at least studied the ramifications first? It's ironic that PBS News had an hour-long program on the subject of plastic's effect on the environment just that day or the next. Your action seems like something Trump would have come up with. Congratulations!

Sincerely,
John Fay
Wheaton, MD

Close

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[HTML](#)

From: "GLENN AND ANTOINETTE LESAK" <bobeglenn@verizon.net>
Date: 4/1/2020 4:43:18 PM
To: "County.Council@montgomerycountymd.gov" <County.Council@montgomerycountymd.gov>
Cc:
Subject: Do not repeal the bag tax

Citizens;
Please do not consider this misguided proposal. Stay healthy.
Bobe Glenn LESAK
Potomac 20854

Sent from my iPhone

Close

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[HTML](#)

From: "Council President" <Council.President@montgomerycountymd.gov>
 Date: 4/7/2020 1:59:32 PM
 To: "County Council" <County.Council@montgomerycountymd.gov>
 Cc:
 Subject: Fw: Expedited Bill 17-20, Carryout Bag Tax Suspension

From: Stuart Simon <stucpic@gmail.com>
 Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 2:01 PM
 To: Katz's Office, Councilmember <Councilmember.Katz@montgomerycountymd.gov>
 Subject: Re: Expedited Bill 17-20, Carryout Bag Tax Suspension

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Dear Council President,

I was very distressed to hear about a bill that would encourage increased use of single-use plastic bags.

The production, use and disposal of single use plastic bags harms our air, our water, our environment, and even when we can no longer see it, decomposes into microscopic particles which are now found in our water supply that harm our endocrine system. This is why the county greatly restricted the use of plastic bags in the first place.

If plastic bag manufacturers claim that reusable bags can harbor viruses, then how much worse will it be when those 'single use' bags are left on our sidewalks, walking trails and bushes as will certainly occur.

While there's no evidence that reusable bags are a significant source of viral transmission, epidemiologists have identified several steps that can and should be taken by all retail stores that would reduce transmission. These steps, roughly in priority order, are routine in many of the countries and places that have been most successful in reducing the spread of the virus.

1. All store employees, and all customers entering the store, should wear masks and gloves. I find it unbelievable that most stores' employees are still not wearing masks even though data suggests that asymptomatic young adults are the likeliest source of transmission. If customers don't have a mask they shouldn't be allowed in. Everyone can make DIY masks. As for gloves, the store should be ready to give them to customers without one as the Grosvenor Market food store has been doing for the last few weeks.

2. All stores should constantly be broadcasting a message on the importance for all customers to

keep their social distance from each other.

3. Stores should monitor and restrict the # of people in the stores to ensure that they don't get crowded.
4. Wherever possible, store aisles should be made one-way to better ensure social distancing.
5. The conveyor belt at the cash register and the self check-out surfaces should be wiped with disinfectant after every customer.
6. Stores should post signs and make announcements reminding shoppers to clean their reusable bags

Stu Simon and Robin Goldstein
4833 Chevy Chase Drive
Bethesda, MD 20815

[<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/mcg/Resources/Images/2020-Census.png>]
<<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/census/>>
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/census/>

[<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcg/Resources/Images/COVID-email.jpg>]
<<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/coronavirus>>
<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/coronavirus>

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[HTML](#)

From: "Stuart Simon" <stucpic@gmail.com>
 Date: 4/6/2020 2:33:53 PM
 To: "MoCo County Council" <County.Council@montgomerycountymd.gov>
 Cc:
 Subject: Testimony Re: Bill 17-20, Carryout Bag Tax Suspension

At a time where health impacts are preeminent I find it appalling that the County Council is proposing a bill that would encourage increased distribution of harmful single-use plastic bags.

This is clearly not about the impact of the tax since everyone has easy access to reusable bags. No, this is the fossil fuel industry's stirring up non-scientifically supported fears to increase the sale of a harmful product.

The production, use, and disposal of single use plastic bags harms our air, our water, our environment, and even when we can no longer see it, decomposes into microscopic particles which are now found in our water supply that harm our endocrine system. This is why the county greatly restricted the use of plastic bags in the first place.

If plastic bag manufacturers claim that reusable bags can harbor viruses, then how much worse will it be when those 'single use' bags are left on our sidewalks, walking trails and bushes as they absolutely will. And why is it ok for people to bring their pocket books, back packs and jackets into the store, if its not ok to bring their reusable bags?

While there's no evidence that reusable bags are a significant source of viral transmission, epidemiologists have identified **several steps** that can and should be taken by all retail stores that **would reduce transmission**. These steps, roughly in priority order, are routine in many of the countries and places that have been most successful in reducing the spread of the virus.

1. All store employees, and all customers entering the store, should wear masks and gloves. I find it unbelievable that most stores' employees are still not wearing masks even though data suggests that asymptomatic young adults are the likeliest source of transmission. If customers don't have a mask they shouldn't be allowed in. Everyone can make DIY masks. As for gloves, the store should be ready to give them to customers without one as the Grosvenor Market food store has been doing for the last few weeks.

(17)

2. All stores should constantly be broadcasting a message on the importance for all customers to keep their social distance from each other.

3. Stores should monitor and restrict the # of people in the stores to ensure that they don't get crowded.

4. Wherever possible, store aisles should be made one-way to better ensure social distancing.

5. The conveyor belt at the cash register and the self check-out surfaces should be wiped with disinfectant after every customer.

6. Stores should post signs and make announcements reminding shoppers to clean their reusable bags

As this virus should make absolutely clear to all humans, we are only as healthy as our surrounding environment. The 'sicker' our environment gets the more likely we will get diseases from that weakened environment whether it be deer ticks, Nile virus, H1N1 or now the Corona Virus. This is not the time to make this worse.

--

Stu Simon
4833 Chevy Chase Drive
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Close

