



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

July 19, 2021

Governor Asa Hutchinson  
Arkansas State Capitol  
500 Woodlane St.  
Little Rock, AR 72202

Dear Governor Hutchinson,

I hope this letter finds you healthy and well. I write today to express my growing concerns about the rise in COVID-19 cases across this state and the lack of meaningful options left to City and County leaders to help address rapidly growing case rates.

In Fayetteville, we continue encouraging residents to get vaccinated. As you have said many times in your media appearances and interviews, vaccination offers the very best protection from COVID-19. The vaccine is easily accessible, safe and available at no cost to everyone aged 12 and older. It helps protect against the highly transmissible Delta variant that is becoming dominant across the county. It's how we'll get back to normal and stop seeing so much disruption and death.

And yet, the majority of Arkansans refuse the vaccine, putting themselves and others at risk. Clearly, the message of "individual responsibility" and encouragement to do the right thing isn't enough.

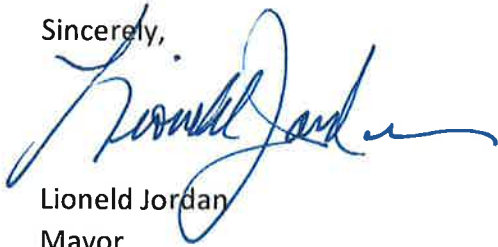
As Mayor, my top priority is to keep my people safe. State legislators have stripped away my ability to do that, and I can't begin to tell you how difficult it is for me to watch those numbers keep going up, knowing that I can't do a thing about it because new state laws won't let me.

It is my hope that the majority of the population will see the light and seek out vaccination. My administration and I will continue to push the message of vaccination benefits, safety and availability. Sadly, that is the only thing we are able to do until something changes and local leaders are once again allowed to do what's best for their people.

**Please call for a special session of the Arkansas legislature as soon as possible to reconsider limitations on local control for COVID-19 safety and prevention options.** Local leaders need to be allowed to do more than just “encourage” people to get vaccinated. The combination of infections careening upwards, less than half of the state’s population being vaccinated and the beginning of the school year is a potentially deadly combination. We need to act now before things get worse.

Governor, thank you for considering my request, and thank you for your work throughout the pandemic to help keep people safe and healthy. Please feel free to call me anytime, and please let the City of Fayetteville know what we can do to help you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lioneld Jordan", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lioneld Jordan  
Mayor  
(479) 575-8330