

COUNTY OF BAKER, OREGON

“Proclamation of Emergency”

WHEREAS, the Baker County Director of Emergency Management reported to the Baker County Board of Commissioners that, beginning at approximately 0000 hrs. on 18 October 2021 that Baker County will be unable to staff the Baker County Jail, provide for pre-hospital emergency medical response, and that the Saint Alphonsus Medical Center(Baker County’s sole medical center) will be unable to provide basic hospital care as a result of staffing shortages due to the implementation of the State of Oregon requirement of COVID 19 vaccination for medical and correctional staff.

WHEREAS the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has exhausted many providers of core public services, including first responders, healthcare providers, emergency services, public health, and public safety, among many others; and

WHEREAS the recent surge of COVID-19 cases due to the Delta variant has further strained those crucial services, filling our hospitals with COVID-19 patients; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to address this new surge, the State of Oregon has attempted to further increase the percentage of Oregonians who are vaccinated by imposing vaccine mandates on certain sectors, including those who work within elements of the healthcare, emergency services, and public safety systems; and

WHEREAS those efforts have incentivized additional Oregonians to obtain vaccinations; and

WHEREAS those efforts now resulted in significant numbers of the exhausted workforce in those critical public health and safety systems to leave employment; and

WHEREAS concerns are now in place that there will be insufficient remaining resources to provide basic public health and safety services, such as the operation of jails, pre-hospital emergency services Baker County is unable to provide pre-hospital medical care to the I-84 corridor, State routes 7, 30, 86, 203, and 245, the cities of Baker City, Halfway, Haines, Huntington, Richland, Sumpter, Unity and the unincorporated areas of the county. The county is also unable to operate the Baker County Jail. The only hospital in Baker County is unable to provide medical services due to lack of staff.
and more; now, therefore, in accordance with ORS 401.309,

DRAFT TEMPLATE – DO NOT COPY & PASTE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Now Therefore Be It Declared by the Baker County Board of Commissioners that a Local Emergency does exist in Baker County due to the Vaccine Mandate by the State of Oregon, and that immediate actions are required to protect the citizens and visitors of Baker County; and the traveling public.

(1) A state of emergency is declared within _____ county due to the immediately foreseeable lack of adequate resources to respond to basic needs for public health and safety services; and

(2) This state of emergency is limited to the period of time during which the conditions described above remain in existence; and

It is Further Declared that since a **Local Emergency** exists, the Baker County Board of Commissioners does hereby request and entreat the Honorable Kate Brown, Governor, of the State of Oregon direct that the State of Oregon now withdraw its vaccine mandates to prevent further erosion of the vital public health and safety workforce. In the event that the State of Oregon determines that the mandate is to critical to public safety, Baker County requests the Governor provide aid and assistance to Baker County in the form of such State assets and resources as is necessary to protect the citizens, and visitors of Baker County, along with the users of the state highway system.

Signed at _____ hrs. on the _____ day of _____ 2021

**BAKER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

William Harvey. Chair

Mark Bennett, Commissioner

Bruce Nichols, Commissioner