

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE STATE OF OREGON
FOR THE COUNTY OF JEFFERSON

IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING A COUNTY)
STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO FORESEEABLE) RESOLUTION NO.
LACK OF ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO RESPOND)
TO BASIC NEEDS FOR HEALTH, SAFETY AND) _____
EMERGENCY SERVICES)

WHEREAS, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has exhausted many providers of core public services, including first responders, healthcare providers, educators and related staff, emergency service providers, and public safety providers; and

WHEREAS, the recent surge of COVID-19 cases, due to the Delta variant, has further strained the delivery of those public services and has filled regional 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 against COVID-19 by imposing vaccine mandates for certain sectors, including education, healthcare, emergency services and state workers; and

WHEREAS, while some Oregonians have received the COVID-19 vaccine as a result of the state mandate, other workers subject to the state mandate have left or are expected to leave employment rather than receive the COVID-19 vaccine; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners anticipates that Executive Order 21-29 mandating vaccinations for state executive branch employees, OAR 333-019-1010 mandating vaccinations for healthcare providers and staff, and OAR 333-019-1030 mandating vaccinations for teachers and school staff will have a detrimental impact on the delivery of healthcare, education, public safety and emergency services within Jefferson County; and

WHEREAS ORS 401.309 authorizes the governing body of a county to declare that an emergency exists within the county and to prepare for and carry out any activity to prevent, minimize, respond to or recover from such emergency;

NOW THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that:

1. A state of emergency is declared within Jefferson County due to the immediately foreseeable lack of adequate resources to deliver basic health, safety and emergency services; and
2. This state of emergency is limited to the period of time during which the conditions described above remain in existence and may be terminated at any time

by the Board of Commissioners upon a finding that the emergency conditions no longer exist; and

3. The Board of Commissioners requests that the State of Oregon immediately withdraw its vaccine mandates to prevent further exhaustion and departure of providers of core public services, including first responders, healthcare providers, educators and related staff, emergency service providers, and public safety providers, that are essential for the safety and well-being of Oregonians living in, visiting and traveling through Jefferson County.

DATED this _____ September, 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Kelly Simmelink, Commission Chair

Wayne Fording, Commissioner

Mae Huston, Commissioner