



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Board Session Agenda Review Form

Meeting date: August 11, 2021

Department: Board of Commissioners Agenda Planning Date: 8/5/21 Time required:

Audio/Visual aids

Contact: Danielle Bethel Phone:

Department Head Signature: Jane S Vetto

TITLE Resolution supporting local oversight of COVID-19 response

Issue, Description & Background On June 30, 2021 Governor Brown rescinded state mask mandates and lifted all COVID-19 restrictions in Oregon, stating that going forward, response to COVID-19 would be delegated to local control. On July 30, 2021 Governor Brown directed the Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon Department of Education to promulgate rules requiring all Oregon children attending school grades K-12 to wear masks indoors while at school during the 2021-2022 school year. The Board is considering a resolution supporting local oversight of COVID-19 response and opposing the mask mandate for children attending school.

Financial Impacts: None

Impacts to Department & External Agencies

Options for Consideration: 1) Approve the Resolution 2) Do not approve the Resolution

Recommendation: Approve the Resolution

List of attachments:

Presenter: Danielle Bethell

Copies of completed paperwork sent to the following: (Include names and e-mail addresses.)

Copies to:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

FOR MARION COUNTY, OREGON

In the matter of supporting local)
oversight of COVID-19 response)
and opposing Governor Brown's)
mask mandate for children)
attending school.

RESOLUTION No. ____

This matter came before the Marion County Board of Commissioners at its regularly scheduled public meeting on August 11, 2021.

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2020 Governor. Brown issued a declaration of emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and since then has issued 23 emergency directives; and

WHEREAS, beginning in the winter of 2021, Marion County, as the local public health authority, oversaw the administration of COVID -19 vaccinations throughout the county; and

WHEREAS to date approximately 70% of Oregon residents have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine; and

WHEREAS on June 30, 2021; Governor Brown rescinded state mask mandates and lifted all COVID-19 restrictions in Oregon, stating that going forward, response to COVID-19 would be delegated to local control; and

WHEREAS, despite this, on July 30, 2021 Governor Brown directed the Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon Department of Education to promulgate rules requiring all Oregon children attending school grades K-12 to wear masks indoors while at school during the 2021-2022 school year; and

WHEREAS, Marion County, as the local public health authority, has worked diligently, along with its residents and community partners, to significantly reduce the number of COVID-19 cases in Marion County as well as provide vaccinations to people throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, as all jurisdictions are different and have different needs, and local school districts have the best knowledge and ability to determine safety requirements for their students; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's recent order mandating all Oregon children wears masks indoor at schools ignores the specialized knowledge of local jurisdictions as to the need of their residents; NOW THEREFORE IT IS

RESOLVED that the Marion County Board of Commissioners request Governor Brown reconsider her directive mandating all Oregon school children wear masks at school during the 2021-2022 school year; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that no county assistance or resources shall be expended in the enforcement of this mandate; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Marion County Board of Commissioners ask Marion County residents to continue to follow COVID- 19 mitigation best practices and measures in order to remain self-governing, and to commit to protecting our well-being and that of our neighbors.

DATED at Salem, Oregon, this 11th day of August 2021.

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chair

Commissioner

Commissioner