

**COUNTY OF BAKER  
BOARD of COMMISSIONERS**

**DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY**

*WHEREAS, the Baker County Incident Management Team determined that, on or about 0000 hours on 18 October 2021 that Baker County will be unable to provide for pre-hospital emergency medical response as a result of staffing shortages due to the implementation of the State of Oregon requirement of COVID 19 vaccination for medical 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 personnel resources to provide basic public health and safety services, such as the operation of pre-hospital emergency services. Specifically, Baker County as the Ambulance Service Area (ASA) shall be unable to provide pre-hospital medical care to the I-84 corridor, Oregon State routes 7, 30, 86, 203, and 245, the cities of Baker City, Halfway, Haines, Huntington, Richland, Sumpter, Unity, Greenhorn and the unincorporated areas of the county; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, in Accordance with ORS 401.309, be it declared by the Baker County Board of Commissioners that a Local Emergency shall occur 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 Baker 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** is imminent, 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 address 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 too 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 0800 hrs. on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021

**Baker County Board of Commissioners**

  
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William "Bill" Harvey, Chairman

  
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Mark E. Bennett, Commissioner

  
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Bruce A. Nichols, Commissioner