



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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October 21, 2021

The Honorable Kate Brown
Office of the Governor
900 Court Street NE, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Dear Governor Brown,

Today, as our County Administrators, staff and employees struggle to navigate your COVID-19 vaccine mandate, the Yamhill County Board of Commissioners would like to underscore concerns we have previously expressed in letters, requests for information, data and documentation along with the numerous Resolutions we have passed, with information found in a recent Harvard study <https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s10654-021-00808-7.pdf> regarding Covid vaccine efficacy.

The study is titled:

Increases in COVID-19 are unrelated to levels of vaccination across 68 countries and 2947 counties in the United States.

The study shows: **“at the country-level, there appears to be no discernable relationship between percentage of population fully vaccinated and new COVID-19 cases in the last 7 days...”** (emphasis added).

The study further shows: “...that countries with higher percentage of population fully vaccinated have higher COVID-19 cases per 1 million people.....the lack of a meaningful association between percentage population fully vaccinated and new COVID-19 cases is further exemplified, for instance, by comparison of Iceland and Portugal. Both countries have over 75% of their population fully vaccinated and have more COVID-19 cases per 1 million people than countries such as Vietnam and South Africa that have around 10% of their population fully vaccinated” (emphasis added).

The study also finds across American counties: “...percentages of population fully vaccinated...of the top 5 counties that have the highest percentage of population fully vaccinated (99.9–84.3%), the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identifies 4 of them as “High” Transmission counties. Chattahoochee (Georgia), McKinley (New Mexico), and Arecibo (Puerto Rico) counties have above 90% of their population fully vaccinated with all three being classified as “High” transmission.

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Conversely, of the 57 counties that have been classified as “low” transmission counties by the CDC, 26.3% (15) have percentage of population fully vaccinated below 20% (emphasis added)

The above findings of no discernable association between COVID-19 cases and levels of fully vaccinated was also observed when we considered a 1-month lag on the levels of fully vaccinated”.

In addition, the study concluded the efficacy of the vaccines is questionable: “. . .in a report released from the Ministry of Health in Israel, the effectiveness of 2 doses of the

BNT162b2 (Pfizer-BioNTech) vaccine against preventing COVID-19 infection was reported to be 39% substantially lower than the trial efficacy of 96%.... It is also emerging that immunity derived from the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine may not be as strong as immunity acquired through recovery from the COVID-19 virus... A substantial decline in immunity from mRNA vaccines 6-monthpost immunization has also been reported. Even though vaccinations offer (sic) protection to individuals against severe hospitalization and death, the CDC reported an increase from 0.01 to 9% and 0 to 15.1% (between January to May 2021) in the rates of hospitalizations and deaths, respectively, amongst the fully vaccinated also emerging that immunity derived from the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine may not be as strong as immunity acquired through recovery from the COVID-19 virus (emphasis added). A substantial decline in immunity from mRNA vaccines 6-months post immunization has also been reported. Even though vaccinations offer (sic) protection to individuals against severe hospitalization and death, the CDC reported an increase from 0.01 to 9% and 0 to 15.1% (between January to May 2021) in the rates of hospitalizations and deaths, respectively, amongst the fully vaccinated.”

Governor Brown, in light of your vaccine directive, and in consideration of the staffing concerns being faced within Yamhill County and across the State, and notwithstanding the moral and Constitutional implications of vaccine mandates, it bears noting, that data which calls into question the efficacy of such sweeping “mandates” such as that found in this recent Harvard study is worthy of consideration when crafting public health policy.

The Yamhill County Board of Commissioners respectfully requests you withdraw your vaccine “mandate”.

Respectfully,



Mary Starrett
Chair



Lindsay Berschauer
Vice-Chair

Voted "No"

Casey Kulla
Commissioner

CC: Pat Allen, Director, Oregon Health Authority
Dean Sidelinger, MD, MEd, FAAP

Accepted by Yamhill County
Board of Commissioners on
10/21/21 by Board Order
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