



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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December 16, 2021

Oregon Health Authority
500 Summer Street, NE, E-20
Salem, OR 97301-1097

Re: Proposed Permanent Masking in Indoor Spaces in Oregon

The Yamhill County Board of Commissioners (The Board), acting as the Governing Body of the Local Public Health Authority opposes the adoption of

OAR 333-019-1025 regarding Proposed Permanent Rulemaking requiring Masking in indoor spaces in Oregon:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/COMMUNICABLEDISEASE/REPORTINGCOMMUNICABLEDISEASE/Pages/index.aspx>

The Board opposes the Proposed Rule by the Oregon Health Authority and instead recommends such actions be considered and decided at the county level.

The Board echoes the concerns of Yamhill County residents who have shared that the Proposed Rule would continue to unnecessarily impact citizens forced to wear masks indoors by reducing intake of oxygen, increasing the risk of bacterial infection, obscuring facial features, impeding normal social interaction, and harming those with past trauma.

In addition, the Proposed Rule contains a heavy-handed threat of a significant fine:

Any person who violates any provision of this rule is subject to civil penalties of up to \$500 per day per violation.

Further, there are numerous studies which call into question the efficacy of disposable and or cloth masks worn by healthy people:

https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994_article

“Although mechanistic studies support the potential effect of hand hygiene or face masks, evidence from 14 randomized controlled trials of these measures did not support a substantial effect on transmission of laboratory-confirmed influenza”

B.O. 21-496

“Disposable medical masks (also known as surgical masks) are loose-fitting devices that were designed to be worn by medical personnel to protect accidental contamination of patient wounds, and to protect the wearer against splashes or sprays of bodily fluids (36). There is limited evidence for their effectiveness in preventing influenza virus transmission either when worn by the infected person for source control or when worn by uninfected persons to reduce exposure. Our systematic review found no significant effect of face masks on transmission of laboratory-confirmed influenza.”

In addition, our local employers have been put in the untenable position of playing “mask police” to their staff and clientele.

We watch the “do as I say, not as I do” behavior of Governor Kate Brown and others, shunning masks for themselves while demanding Oregonians comply with orders which only exist in a handful of US states.

The Permanent Masking of Oregonians is unnecessary and unacceptable.

Sincerely,



Mary Starrett
Chair



Lindsay Berschauer
Vice-Chair

Voted "No"

Casey Kulla
Commissioner

Accepted by Yamhill County
Board of Commissioners on
12/16/21 by Board Order
21-496