BEFORE THE BOARD OF HEALTH OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION & ORDER NO: 21-08-10-06

IN THE MATTER OF AN EMERGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY CALLING FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYERS TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION ON MASKING AND OTHER PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES AGAINST THE DELTA VARIANT SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, on July 28, 2021, revised previous public health guidance calling on individuals, regardless of vaccination status, to resume masking, distancing, and take other personal protective measures in light of growing evidence of greater transmissibility of the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant of SARS-CoV-2; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon Health Authority affirmed the revised CDC guidance on the day of its issuance; and

WHEREAS, confirmed case rates during the four weeks ending August 9th in Lane County have grown from 21 cases per 100,000 of population to 267 cases per 100,000, exceeding the CDC threshold of “high transmission” of 100 cases per 100,000 by more than 2.5 times; and

WHEREAS, the number of individuals being currently tracked as infectious within Lane County is the highest by a factor of two as compared to the previous high during the winter surge of November 2020 – January 2021; and

WHEREAS, the number of hospitalizations of Lane County residents with COVID-19 is likewise exceeding daily census counts observed during the winter surge and stressing the capacity of our local hospital system; and

WHEREAS, Lane County, as Oregon’s second largest regional hospital hub, is receiving patients from other counties in Southwest Oregon; and

WHEREAS, statewide hospital capacity for COVID-19 patients is of growing concern as over 590 individuals were in hospital in Oregon on August 9, 2021, over 150 of whom were in Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds.

WHEREAS, the people of Lane County have demonstrated their ability to voluntarily follow public health measures with sufficient rigor throughout the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in lower case rates, hospitalizations, and deaths when compared to jurisdictions of similar size and demographics in Oregon and around the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Health of Lane County RESOLVES and ORDERS as follows:
1. The issuance of an Emergency Public Health Advisory in Lane County calling for all individuals, businesses and employers to take immediate protective health measures in indoor shared spaces regardless of current vaccination status.

2. The Emergency Public Health Advisory specifically calls for all individuals, businesses and employers to ensure that indoor masking is adhered to for those older than five years of age (two and older if tolerated), regardless of vaccination status; maintaining distance from individuals outside of immediate households when inside indoor shared spaces; practicing good hand washing and sanitation hygiene; and other relevant measures are necessary to limit ongoing community spread and save lives in Lane County, and should begin or be resumed immediately for anyone who hasn’t yet adopted these practices.

3. That the Emergency Public Health Advisory be promulgated by Lane County Public Health with the urgency and speed that this matter requires.

ADOPTED this 10th day of August, 2021.

Joe Berney, Chair
Lane County Board of Health