



DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY LINN COUNTY, OREGON

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus COVID-19 is in Linn County and as the result of the State of Oregon's Reopening Criteria has had a profound effect on Linn County's children who have suffered damage to their social development, physical health and mental health as a result of the pandemic including, but not limited to not meeting the following needs of children: **Children need the opportunity to develop social skills; Children need time with adults other than parents; Children need organized physical activities;** and,

WHEREAS, the State of Oregon provides for Linn County to act in time of emergencies, including authority to establish policies and procedures defining and directing responsibilities; and,

WHEREAS, the Linn County Board of Commissioners has determined that extraordinary measures must be implemented to limit or eliminate the effects of the COVID-19 Reopening Criteria. Such measures include, but are not limited to, those measures listed below; and,

WHEREAS, local resources available to Linn County should be committed or expended to overcome the impacts of COVID-19 and the consequence of K-12 not reopening in the fall of 2020; the extent and scope of the disaster is such that those resources are insufficient; and,

WHEREAS, the following State and Federal resources and services are needed to overcome the present emergency:


1. Support creation of new Reopening Criteria focused on allowing children to safely play and interact;
2. Use the resources of organizations that serve children, (i.e. schools, youth clubs, churches, after school programs and local government) to open up physical space and resources;
3. Call for all School Districts, the Oregon Department of Education, the State Department of Health and Human Services, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCAs and after school activity organizations to work together to offer consistent opportunities that families can count on;
4. Direct significant State and Federal monies to be dedicated to getting youth activities opened NOW with funding to support the needed additional staff to deliver activities in smaller groups; and,

WHEREAS, children's mental health and social skills need development by activity and interaction with others. Before COVID-19, we lost too many children to suicide without strong and consistent intervention and access to trained teachers and mental health professionals; and, now therefore it is hereby

RESOLVED AND ORDERED, That the above conditions for children created by the State of Oregon's COVID-19 Reopening Criteria constitutes an emergency pursuant to LCC 235.200(2) as a serious threat to the peace, health and welfare of the children of Linn County and, therefore, the Linn County Board of Commissioners declares a state of emergency exists in Linn County pursuant to LCC 235.250 and requests the assistance indicated above.

Dated this 5th day of August, 2020.

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Roger Nyquist, Chairman



John K. Lindsey, Commissioner



William C. Tucker, Commissioner