

**A**s an event-filled weekend approaches in Marion County, Gov. Kate Brown announced that starting Friday, Aug. 27, masks will be required at all outdoor events — whether you're vaccinated or not.

The mandate will require that masks be worn in outdoor settings where individuals from different households are not consistently maintaining a safe distance apart.

Tuesday, after Brown's announcement, the Oregon Health Authority announced there were 1,000 Oregon patients hospitalized with COVID, a pandemic record. It was also reported at press time that of the 657 total adult ICU beds in Oregon, only 45 remain available.

Brown's announcement Tuesday gives event organizers in Marion County only a couple of days to prepare for the new mandate and find ways to enforce it.

The Oregon State Fair, which is set to begin Friday, Aug. 27 and run through Monday, Sept. 6, plans to use education to enforce the mandate, with signage and information to be posted throughout the fair.

"We will also ask anyone who is not wearing a mask to kindly, put one on. Bottom line, we are committed to making this a fun and safe fair — for everyone," Fair CEO Kim Grewe-Powell said in an email.

The fair, which brings hundreds of thousands of visitors to the Salem fairgrounds each year, said in an initial press release in June that the fair would operate at full capacity and "no mask, physical distancing, or proof of vaccination will be required."

In Keizer specifically, the Monster Cookie Ride is expected to bring more than 500 cyclists to Keizer Rapids Park on Sunday, Aug. 29.

and social distancing at the event.

"We kind of planned it from the very beginning to be this way because that's how it was



## Outdoor mask mandate returns with a busy weekend in Marion County approaching

JOEY CAPPELLETTI  
*Of the Keizertimes*

The event, which includes three rides ranging from 61 miles to 6.2 miles, leaves from Keizer Rapids Park at 10 a.m. on Sunday.

Event organizer Hersch Sangster said they've planned all along to require masks

last spring when we started planning. We were hoping to let up but that didn't happen," Sangster said.

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## Local school officials speak on mask, vaccine requirements

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI  
*Of the Keizertimes*

All Oregon K-12 teachers, volunteers and school employees will be required to be fully vaccinated by Oct. 18, Gov. Kate Brown announced last week.

"Our kids need to be in the classroom full-time, five days a week, and we have to do everything we can to make that happen," said Brown on Aug. 19. "While we are still learning about the Delta variant, we know from previous experience that when schools open with safety measures in place, the risk of transmission is low."

The announcement also included mandatory vaccinations for health-care workers, who had previously been allowed to take weekly tests if they weren't vaccinated.

The new vaccination mandate comes as school officials in Marion County are already dealing with

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## Questions still surround city manager search following 'DYSFUNCTIONAL' special session meeting

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI | *Of the Keizertimes*



COUNCILOR LAURA REID

"I can't imagine who would want to come work as the city manager for a city that is this, frankly, dysfunctional," Keizer City Councilor Laura Reid said at Monday's special session. "I think we've done better than this in the past. I think that we have done better at respecting our staff and their professionalism in the past."

Something better change. I'm looking at everybody in the room.

— ROSS DAY Keizer City Councilor



File/ KEIZERTIMES

Reid's blunt remarks punctuated more than an hour of contentious debate regarding a hiring process that some on the council felt lacked transparency.

The special session Monday was scheduled following a council meeting on Aug. 16 where councilors couldn't come to an agreement on signing a contract with The

Greg Prothman Company. Prothman is an executive recruiting firm that was set to help the city recruit their next city manager — Keizer has been without a permanent city manager since April.

The main objector to the contract was  
See **DYSFUNCTION**, page A8