

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 22-23

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY DUE TO SURGE IN PEDIATRIC RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS IN OREGON

ORS 401.165 *et seq.* empowers the Governor to declare a state of emergency upon determining that an emergency has occurred or is imminent. Pursuant to that authority, I find that the spread of respiratory viruses in children, including Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), and the related strain on hospital capacity, has created a threat to public health and safety, and constitutes a statewide emergency under ORS 401.025(1).

Oregon currently is experiencing a rapid increase in pediatric infections and hospitalizations from respiratory viruses including RSV, a common respiratory virus that spreads through virus-containing respiratory droplets produced from coughing and sneezing. Young children are especially susceptible to health effects from RSV, which may include severe infections such as bronchiolitis and pneumonia. Children under the age of two, and in particular infants under six months of age, are at increased risk of severe disease.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the United States is experiencing an early, elevated onset of respiratory disease incidence, as the result of RSV, influenza, SARS-CoV-2, and other respiratory viruses. Respiratory disease caused by RSV and other viruses is placing severe strain on pediatric hospital capacity in Oregon. Since Oregon's RSV season onset on October 29, 2022, the pediatric hospitalization rate has more than tripled to 7.6 hospitalizations per 100,000 children. Oregon is likely to exceed its previously recorded peak weekly hospitalization rate of 9.5 per 100,000 children imminently. The pediatric hospitalization rate is being driven by severe disease in infants under six months of age, who may require specialized pediatric care. Oregon's limited number of pediatric intensive care unit beds have been heavily impacted, with few options to transfer patients out of state. Although hospital capacity is already severely strained, pediatric cases of RSV, influenza and other respiratory viruses are expected to continue to grow for many weeks.

In order to ensure the state and local authorities have the resources needed to respond to pediatric respiratory infections, a declaration of emergency is necessary.



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NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED THAT:

1. The Oregon Health Authority and the state Public Health Director shall take all actions necessary and authorized under ORS 401.651 to 401.670, ORS 433.443, and ORS 431A.015 to respond to, control, mitigate, and recover from the emergency, including but not limited to:
 - (a) Deploying emergency volunteer health care professionals under ORS 401.661;
 - (b) Designating emergency health care centers under ORS 401.657.
2. If needed, I will request assistance through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact under ORS 402.105 and the Pacific Northwest Management Assistance Arrangement under ORS 402.250.
3. The Department of Emergency Management shall, in consultation with the Director of the Oregon Health Authority and state Public Health Director, if necessary, take any action authorized under ORS 433.441. All state government agencies shall utilize and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities for any and all activities as requested and coordinated by the Department of Emergency Management.
4. As necessary to respond to the emergency, I authorize all executive agencies of state government to take, upon further direction from me or my office, any actions authorized under the provisions set forth in ORS 401.168 through ORS 401.192.
5. State agencies shall develop and implement procedures, including waiving rules or adopting temporary rules within the agency's authority, consistent with recommendations from the state Public Health Director, designed to prevent or alleviate the public health threat.



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To ensure that state and local authorities have access to resources during the RSV season, this state of emergency shall exist for sixteen weeks from the date of this Executive Order, expiring at 12:01 a.m. on March 6, 2023, unless extended or terminated earlier by the Governor.

Done at Salem, Oregon this 14th day of November, 2022.



Kate Brown

Kate Brown
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Shemia Fagan

Shemia Fagan
SECRETARY OF STATE