

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

ORDINANCE NO. 1342

Ordinance Establishing Safe School Zones in Multnomah County, Oregon.

(Language ~~*stricken~~ is deleted; underlined language is new.)

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- A. Syringe service programs (SSPs) are evidence-based public health interventions to increase access to sterile needles and syringes, facilitate the safe disposal of used needles and syringes, and cause a reduction in HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C transmissions. SSPs also help individuals access other relevant health and social service programs.
- B. SSPs are a critical public health evidence-based practice, particularly in addressing issues related to substance use and its associated health risks and reducing disease transmission.
- C. Many residents throughout Multnomah County, however, have concerns about mobile or temporary SSPs operating in the proximity of k-12 schools and have requested restrictions on those operations.
- D. Operating mobile or temporary SSPs outside of a 1,000 foot radius of k-12 schools will support community safety and access to education, while maintaining the availability of SSP services in Multnomah County. It is a reasonable and logical balancing of interests.
- E. Enforcement of a 1,000' restriction may be initiated by complaint, and violations may result in the issuance of a letter of education to ensure compliance. The notice of violation will indicate the date, address, and violation observed and will specify any corrective actions to achieve compliance with this subchapter. Enforcement may also involve petitioning the Circuit Court for injunctive relief.
- F. Multnomah County is a home rule jurisdiction with home rule authority to regulate on any matter of County concern.

THEREFORE, pursuant to its Home Rule Charter, Multnomah County Ordains as follows:

Section 1. MCC § 21.350 is added:

§ 21.350 PURPOSE.

The purpose of this subsection is to enhance accountability, public health and community safety, and to establish Safe School Zones by prohibiting mobile syringe service programs within 1,000 feet of schools.

Section 2. MCC § 21.351 is added:

§ 21.351 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this subchapter, the following definitions apply:

HYPODERMIC DEVICE. Means any instrument adapted or created for the subcutaneous injection of a controlled substance.

SCHOOL. All real property, land, and buildings used to operate a public or private school that teaches children in any grades from kindergarten through the end of high school.

MOBILE SYRINGE SERVICE PROGRAM. Means a service that provides free sterile needles, syringes, or hypodermic devices from a temporary or non-permanent location. Mobile syringe service program does not mean or include any service that arises out of a licensed health professional's treatment of a patient.

Section 3. MCC § 21.352 is added:

§ 21.352 PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES.

It is a violation of this subchapter for any person, business, or organization to operate, assist, or participate in a mobile syringe service program within 1,000 feet of a school.

It is not a violation of this subchapter when a public body has expressly approved of a mobile syringe service program within 1,000 feet of a school within its jurisdiction.

It is not a violation of this subchapter for a syringe service program to temporarily operate out of a mobile site adjacent to the program's permanent facility in cases where the permanent facility is temporarily inaccessible. In these cases, a limited term exemption will be granted. A timeline for the limited term exemption must be documented and communicated by the syringe service program to Multnomah County and any adjacent sidewalk or public space must remain accessible by the public.

Section 4. MCC § 21.353 is added with an effective date of August 24, 2026.

§ 21.353 ENFORCEMENT.

Pursuant to ORS 30.315, and any other applicable statute or rule, Multnomah County may file an action in Circuit Court to enjoin further commission of any prohibited activities, and may recover all attorney fees, costs, and disbursements related to such enforcement.

Section 5. MCC § 21.354 is added:

§ 21.354 SUNSET.

This ordinance will sunset on January 1, 2028, or before that date by Board vote.

FIRST READING: May 21, 2026

SECOND READING AND ADOPTION: June 25, 2026



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By:

Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner Julia Brim-Edwards, District 3
Commissioner Meghan Moyer, District 1