



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Board of Supervisors to Consider Urgency Ordinance Requiring All Persons, Regardless of Vaccination Status, to Mask in All County-Operated Facilities**

*Related Changes to COVID-19 Protocols for County Employees Expected if Ordinance Passes*

**Lake County, CA (August 2, 2021)** – As of this morning, Sutter Lakeside Hospital reported their Emergency Department was treating 18 COVID-19 patients. Their customary capacity is 14 beds. Per the CDC’s 6am update, essentially half (49.4%) of all Lake County residents, and 41.1% of those currently eligible have yet to receive even one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine:

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

With so many residents unprotected, Lake County’s District 5 Supervisor, Jessica Pyska, is sponsoring an Extra Item for tomorrow’s Board of Supervisors meeting: an Urgency Ordinance intended to limit the risk of employees and the public contracting COVID-19 in County-operated facilities. If passed by the required four-fifths vote, face coverings will immediately be required for all people, regardless of vaccination status, in County facilities (e.g.: the Courthouse building and surrounding offices; the Department of Social Services’ Lower Lake facility).

“Our Board has the opportunity to set an example for all Lake County businesses by taking precautions that reflect the serious threat we are currently experiencing,” notes Pyska. “If California was still using the Blueprint System, Lake County would be in the Purple Tier. All people were required to mask indoors when we were in the Purple Tier, and those precautions made a difference.”

If the Board Adopts the Urgency Ordinance, another Extra Item implementing changes to the County of Lake’s COVID-19 Worksite Protocol will also be considered.

“We are already asking a lot of our local hospitals and regional healthcare partners, and we must turn things around,” continues Pyska. “Requiring universal masking in County facilities is highly sensible. We have learned over the past 17 months face coverings can significantly reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission when people from different households come together in indoor settings. Let’s do what we can to protect one another!”

Information on how to participate in tomorrow’s meeting, which begins at 9am, can be found here:

<http://www.lakecountyca.gov/Government/PressReleases/PaceUpdate080221.htm>

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