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Promoting an Optimal State of Wellness in Lake County

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Watch List” Replaced with 4-Tier System - What Does This Mean for Lake County?

Gary Pace, MD, MPH

Lake County, CA (August 29, 2020) — Yesterday afternoon, the State announced a new strategy for adjusting business and other activities in California during the COVID-19 pandemic. Changes go into effect Monday, August 31. The "Watch List" model has been replaced by 4 color coded tiers:

| County risk level | New cases | positive tests |
|---|---|--|
| <p>WIDESPREAD</p> <p>Many non-essential indoor business operations are closed</p> | <p>More than 7</p> <p>daily new cases (per 100k)</p> | <p>More than 8%</p> <p>positive tests</p> |
| <p>SUBSTANTIAL</p> <p>Some non-essential indoor business operations are closed</p> | <p>4 - 7</p> <p>daily new cases (per 100k)</p> | <p>5 - 8%</p> <p>positive tests</p> |
| <p>MODERATE</p> <p>Some indoor business operations are open with modifications</p> | <p>1 - 3.9</p> <p>daily new cases (per 100k)</p> | <p>2 - 4.9%</p> <p>positive tests</p> |
| <p>MINIMAL</p> <p>Most indoor business operations are open with modifications</p> | <p>Less than 1</p> <p>daily new cases (per 100k)</p> | <p>Less than 2%</p> <p>positive tests</p> |

Daily case rates and test positivity rates determine tier placement. Businesses in counties in less-restrictive tiers can provide services in more ways. Lake County will align with State guidance. Counties cannot take restrictions away.

More information on California’s new, “Blueprint for a Safer Economy” is available here:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/COVID19CountyMonitoringOverview.aspx>

New Statewide Public Health Orders were also released, and can be viewed here:

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/8-28-20_Order-Plan-Reducing-COVID19-Adjusting-Permitted-Sectors-Signed.pdf

Which tier is Lake County in, and what does this mean for local businesses?

Lake County will be initially placed in Tier 2 (Red, “Substantial” viral spread). As of Monday, these are some changes:

- Indoor Movie Theaters, previously closed, can open at 25% of capacity
- Restaurants will be permitted to reopen for indoor dining, at 25% of capacity.
- Gyms were limited by ability to socially distance; now there is a hard capacity limit – not to exceed 10%.

Local businesses are encouraged to visit <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/>, select Lake County and your business sector, and see what is allowed. Answers to Frequently Asked Questions are also posted.

If Lake County progress to the Purple tier, newly-enabled indoor activities will again be prohibited. Our case positivity rate and hospitalizations have recently been increasing. Yesterday, we recorded our first cases in a congregate living facility; outbreaks and deaths in such environments have led multiple neighboring counties to restrict activities.

What about Schools?

There are no significant changes. In the State’s July 17 guidance, substitute “Purple Tier” for “County Monitoring List”:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Schools%20Reopening%20Recommendations.pdf>

This is a critical time. Business leaders, if you are considering adding indoor activities on Monday, precautions *must* be in place. Residents, please do your part to keep local businesses open. If we all wear face coverings, practice social distancing and good hygiene, and avoid social gatherings, we can turn things around.

Gary Pace, MD, MPH