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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **COVID-19 Update: Testing to Expand January 4 with OptumServe**

*300 Healthcare Workers Already Vaccinated, Strengthening our COVID-19 Response*

**Lake County, CA** – COVID-19 cases are currently surging in Lake County and around the state. Staying home (not mixing with other households) during the holidays will help slow the spread of the virus. Hospital capacity statewide is already being stretched, so we must limit the number of new cases. Please take extra precautions!

**OptumServe Opening Lakeport, Lower Lake Testing Sites January 4:** COVID testing availability is an essential part of containing the spread. Due to the weather, and some contract changes with the State, OptumServe will begin providing regular testing in Lake County January 4. We are excited about this change, as it will improve the ability of Lake County residents to get tested.

Our two sites will be indoors, not Drive-Thru:

- **Lakeport:** Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays, 7am-7pm, at the Silveira Community Center, 500 N. Main Street
- **Lower Lake:** Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 7am-7pm, at the Lower Lake Town Hall, 16195 Main St

Appointments can be made online, at <https://lhi.care/covidtesting>, or by phone. Walk-in slots will also be available. Children can now get tested, as well as adults. General information on testing with OptumServe can be found here: <https://covid19.ca.gov/get-tested/>

Rite Aid is also now conducting Drive-Thru testing in Clearlake and Ukiah. Appointments can be made online: <https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/services/covid-19-testing>

Our previous Drive-Thru testing site in Lakeport will be open 9am-2pm December 28, 29 and 30. The standup site in Clearlake has closed. Many thanks to Verily and the volunteers and others that made our Drive-Thru sites possible.

**COVID-19 Vaccine Update:** Vaccine doses have started to arrive in Lake County. With approximately 300 healthcare workers already vaccinated, many are wondering where they will fit in the priority list. The supply is much less than the need, so we are following CDC and CDPH (State Public Health) guidelines for which order people should be offered the vaccine.

- **Tier 1** (this is where we are at now): hospital workers; medical first responders; nursing home staff; dialysis staff
- **Tier 2** (hopefully in the next 1-2 weeks): outpatient clinic staff; jail medical; home health; IHSS workers.
- **Tier 3** (probably in a few weeks): specialty clinics; lab workers; dental clinics; pharmacy staff.

Protecting people serving in these roles first will help ensure there are sufficient healthcare workers to take care of sick people in the coming months. Timelines and priority guidelines for subsequent tiers are still under development. Those expected to be in near-term groups include: essential workers like law enforcement, teachers, farmworkers, public transit workers, food workers; elders over 75 years old; and those with chronic medical illness.

We are currently working through established medical systems to distribute and administer these vaccines. Public Health will also provide targeted immunization clinics in the coming weeks. To remain up to date on upcoming vaccine clinics, keep checking <http://health.co.lake.ca.us>. Please have a safe and happy holidays!

Gary Pace, MD, MPH