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COVID-19 Update: Surge Slowing Statewide, but Lake County is Peaking

3 COVID-19-Related Deaths Reported in the Past 7 Days

Lake County, CA – The steep post-holiday climb in COVID-19 cases in California appears to be leveling off, signaling hope the surge is slowing down. However, Lake County is still seeing a rise in cases, hospitalizations, and deaths; we lost 3 people to COVID in the last 7 days.

ICU Capacity Near 15%, No Regional Stay Home Order Yet

ICU capacity in the Northern California (RANCHO) Region is hovering around 15%. If we drop below that threshold, a "Regional Stay Home Order" will take effect at 11:59pm the following day. While we are not there yet, we have been seeing a general downward trend over the past few weeks. Information and answers to Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Regional Stay Home Order are available here:

<https://covid19.ca.gov/stay-home-except-for-essential-needs/>

Vaccine Update

Widespread COVID-19 vaccination is essential to our return to a more normal way of life, but there is not nearly enough supply to meet the demand. State Guidelines determine vaccine priority, more information is available at <https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/>.

In the four weeks since the first doses arrived in Lake County, we have offered vaccine to the majority of people in Phase 1A. We are now setting up larger vaccination clinics that can expand as more vaccine becomes available; so far, we are only getting 300-400 doses per week. Phase 1A-eligible individuals that have not yet been vaccinated, and the following Phase 1B, Tier 1, groups will be able to get vaccine starting next week:

- Teachers and school staff (*appointments scheduled through each School District*)
- Individuals aged 65 and older (*contact your medical provider, Senior Centers will also be reaching out to vulnerable people they regularly serve*)

Public Health is not currently offering general appointments. We expect that to change in coming weeks, and appreciate your patience. Updates will be available at <http://health.co.lake.ca.us/Coronavirus/Vaccines.htm>.

Because supply has been unpredictable, with very limited notice provided, vaccine clinic locations will be announced as they are ready. There will be at least one at each end of the lake. No one will be vaccinated without an appointment. We are committed to making vaccination available to other groups as quickly as possible; emergency services, childcare, food and agricultural workers will be next.

Remember, COVID-19 activity is more widespread than it has ever been in Lake County, and continuing to climb. The next few weeks are likely to be the most difficult time of the pandemic. Please take extra precautions.

Gary Pace, MD, MPH