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## *Promoting an Optimal State of Wellness in Lake County*

### **PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **COVID-19 Update: 9 New Cases Identified in Lake County, Free Testing Available**

Gary Pace MD, MPH

**Lake County, CA (May 27, 2020)** – Late yesterday and today, 9 new cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in Lake County, bringing our cumulative total to 23. This includes 11 newly documented in the past week.

2 different clusters of active infections have been identified. 8 of the 11 recent positive tests are related to these clusters. Both are still being investigated, to determine if there are further associated cases.

The other 3 individuals tested positive out of the area, but reside in Lake County.

While widespread community transmission remains a concern, the recent infections are rooted in known cases.

Thankfully, all of those confirmed positive are stable, and complying with home isolation, and we have no active COVID-19-related hospitalizations.

To protect the identities of those affected, no further information will be released at this time.

With many sectors of our economy reopening, and Clear Lake once again attracting tourists from areas with greater viral activity, some continuing increase in cases is likely over the next couple of weeks.

Because we had relatively few cases over a sustained period prior to this recent rise, some may have been under the impression the virus was not present in Lake County's communities. It is more probable some mild-moderate infections were not being captured by testing. COVID-19 risk remains significant in our region, and travel will only increase as restrictions further loosen.

We take all newly-confirmed cases very seriously, avidly investigating each one, and identifying and interviewing contacts. In the event COVID-19 is suspected, we test and isolate those that may have been exposed.

#### **Free Testing is Available in Lake County**

We now offer Drive-Thru testing at different locations around the county, open daily during the week. People needing testing can go to the Verily website and get screened and make an appointment:

<https://www.projectbaseline.com/study/covid-19/>

Frequently Asked Questions on Drive-Thru Testing are available here:

<http://health.co.lake.ca.us/Assets/Departments/Health/Public+Health+Division/COVID-19/Testing/TestingFacts.pdf>

**Do recent positive tests change plans to reopen local businesses?**

Some Northern California counties have already discussed slowing their reopening plans in light of moderate upticks in infections. So far, Lake County is seeing more cases, and those involved in our local containment strategy have been able to appropriately respond.

Recent positive tests mean we will need to move slowly and thoughtfully when further loosening restrictions, particularly if new cases continue to significantly rise, testing capacity is outpaced by need, or contact tracing or local healthcare resources start to become overwhelmed.

Taking precautions is essential if we are to continue reopening new categories of businesses:

- Stay at home, except to engage in permitted activities
- Wear a face covering when away from home, to protect others
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds each time
- Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available
- People 65 or older, or otherwise at increased risk, are encouraged to stay safe at home

**More information**

For Lake County-specific Coronavirus information, please continue to visit the Lake County Health Services Department's website, <http://health.co.lake.ca.us>.

The Lake County Coronavirus Response Hub has additional valuable resources:

<https://lake-co-ca-coronavirus-response-lakecoca.hub.arcgis.com/>

If you still have questions, or you need further assistance registering for testing, please send an email request to [MHOAC@lakecountyca.gov](mailto:MHOAC@lakecountyca.gov) or call during business hours: 707-263-8174.

Gary Pace, MD, MPH