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

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

#### **COVID-19 Update: 5 New Cases Identified in Lake County**

Gary Pace MD, MPH

**Lake County, CA (June 1, 2020)** – Many kinds of business and social activity have resumed in recent weeks, and Clear Lake has now been open to the public for four weekends, bringing people into Lake County from throughout the region. There has been a general increase in social mobility. It is therefore concerning, but not entirely surprising, that new cases of COVID-19 continue to be identified.

This weekend brought confirmation of another 5 new infections, raising Lake County's total caseload to 26. Many will recall our cumulative total stood at 23 last week, and wonder why the new total isn't 28. 2 active cases previously identified in Lake County returned to their home county. Accordingly, Lake County's total decreased by two, whereas the total in the county to which they returned was increased by two.

Lake County now has 14 active cases, and 1 previously-identified case has unfortunately grown sicker, and is hospitalized.

All 5 of the new cases are stable, and 4 are isolating at home. As has been previously reported, 1 is in the Lake County Jail. While any new case is cause for some concern, most of those recently identified seem to be clearly connected to a previously known case. Others contracted COVID-19 outside of Lake County. Investigations and contact tracing are ongoing, but there remains no evidence of significant community transmission.

To protect the identities of the affected individuals, no further information will be released at this juncture. We can appreciate there is public interest in additional details, and when we reach 50 cases, we will begin sharing demographic information.

#### **Status of Reopening**

To this point, the health systems have been able to manage and contain the cases as they have emerged.

Therefore, the plan remains to allow indoor dining to resume at Lake County restaurants this Thursday, June 4. If the number of cases rises significantly, we may have to slow the opening process down.

People's willingness and ability to continue to practice social distancing and comply with masking requirements will have a significant effect on rate at which COVID-19 spreads. As long as it stays at a manageable level, we can continue to move forward with gradual relaxation of the restrictions.

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

We 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/>

Some have expressed frustrations surrounding the online registration process, and we really don't want this to be a barrier for those who think they may have been exposed. If you need assistance, please send an email request to [MHOAC@lakecountyca.gov](mailto:MHOAC@lakecountyca.gov) or call during business hours: 707-263-8174.

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>

**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/>

I am exquisitely aware many are growing weary of the restrictions and Health Orders, and just want things to return to normal. I want that, too, and we will get there fastest by remaining vigilant in taking precautions:

- 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 when out of your household
- 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 at elevated risk of severe complications are encouraged to Stay Safe at Home

Gary Pace, MD, MPH