



COUNTY OF LAKE

Health Services Department

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Promoting an Optimal State of Wellness in Lake County

DECLARATION OF LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY (Health & Safety Code §101080)

WHEREAS, Health and Safety Code section 101080 authorizes a local health officer to declare a local health emergency in the health officer's jurisdiction, or any part thereof, whenever the health officer reasonably determines that there is an imminent and proximate threat of the introduction of any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease.

WHEREAS, a novel coronavirus, COVID-19, causes infectious disease and was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in December 2019. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath; outcomes have ranged from mild to severe illness, and in some cases death.

WHEREAS, Chinese health officials have reported tens of thousands of cases of COVID-19 in China, with the virus reportedly spreading from person-to-person. COVID-19 illnesses, most of them associated with travel from Wuhan, but also being reported in a growing number of international locations, including the United States.

WHEREAS, the number of reported cases of COVID-19 has escalated dramatically over a short period of time, and on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern."

WHEREAS, World Health Organization (WHO) officials now report that sustained human-to-human transmission of the virus is occurring. Transmission from asymptomatic individuals has been documented. Suspected community transmission of the virus is occurring in the United States. Although the majority of individuals infected with COVID-19 recover from the disease without special treatment, there is significant potential for serious infection and death.

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, United States Health and Human Service Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19.

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has determined that the virus presents a serious public health threat.

WHEREAS, on February 2, 2020, the federal government initiated the suspension of the entry of foreign nationals who were in China within the past fourteen (14) days. United States citizens, residents, and their immediate family members who were in the Hubei Province and other parts of mainland China are screened upon their entry into the United States. Those without symptoms traveling from areas of China (other than Hubei Province) are allowed to continue to their final destination, but are requested to self-quarantine in coordination with local public health officials for up to fourteen (14) days. Federal quarantine of some individuals traveling from Wuhan, at the Travis Air Force Base, concluded and these citizens have been released to return to their home communities.

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2020, the CDC issued new guidelines to screen individuals suffering from a fever and/or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath) for COVID-19 for a history of travel from China, Iran, Italy, Japan, and South Korea as well as patients suffering from a fever with severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS) requiring hospitalization and without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza).

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020 Governor Newsom, Governor of the State of California proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California, to aid the states healthcare community in responding to COVID-19.

WHEREAS, as of March 8, 2020, California has one hundred fourteen (114) confirmed cases reported with one (1) fatality and at least thirty seven (37) cases suspected to have been contracted due to person-to-person or community spread. Community spread is defined as the transmission of the virus without known contact with an individual with the virus, and without known connection with travel to or from a location where the virus is known to be rapidly spreading in China, Iran, Italy, and South Korea. Further, wide ranging community spread originating from Seattle is newly recognized.

WHEREAS, as of March 8, 2020, there were four hundred and twenty three (423) confirmed cases of COVID-19 and nineteen (19) confirmed fatalities in the United States, as well as over one hundred and nine thousand (109,578) confirmed cases of COVID-19 and three thousand eight hundred and nine (3809) fatalities worldwide.

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 tests used in the U.S. currently have very limited availability based on current CDC criteria.

WHEREAS, there are confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the counties surrounding Lake County, including both the Counties of Humboldt and Sonoma.

WHEREAS, while there are no known cases of COVID-19 in Lake County as of the signing of this declaration, the CDC and California Department of Public Health are recommending that our Nation and State prepare for a possible pandemic of COVID-19.

WHEREAS, the prevalence of confirmed cases in surrounding counties combined with the worldwide-uncontrolled spread of COVID-19 indicate there is an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of COVID-19 in Lake County.


WHEREAS, this declaration enables the County to more effectively respond to an imminent outbreak, seek and utilize mutual aid, potentially obtain reimbursement, and ensure that the County's public health professionals and providers have all necessary personal protective equipment to provide quality care and keep our community safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 101080, the Lake County Health Officer declares:

- 1) The potential introduction of COVID-19 in Lake County is an imminent threat to the public health within the meaning of Health & Safety Code section 101080.
- 2) A local health emergency is declared in Lake County commencing on or about 09:00 a.m. of the 9th day of March, 2020.

WHEREAS, the local health emergency shall not remain in effect after seven days from the date of this declaration unless it has been ratified by the County of Lake, Board of Supervisors.

Date: 3/9/2020

Issued by: 
Gary Pace, M.D., MPH
Health Officer, County of Lake