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Promoting an Optimal State of Wellness in Lake County

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clarifications of “Shelter-in-Place” Order Addenda

Gary Pace MD, MPH

Lake County, CA (April 24, 2020) – We are grateful to many members of the public and media for providing feedback on yesterday’s (April 23) “Shelter-in-Place Update” Order Addendum (C20-3, A4), which took effect at 2pm.

As mentioned in the Press Release accompanying the Order Addendum, yesterday’s Addendum was not intended to further restrict the ability of families living within the same household to engage in Essential Activities.

The intent was to enable additional opportunities for individuals and business to resume some relatively low risk activities, while observing social distancing, and gathering in groups no larger than two. These measures are geared toward gradual resumption of community activities, and moderating the additional risk our communities are assuming. While there may be other activities that carry a similar level of inherent risk, opening up too much at once could lead to a surge in infections. A step-by-step approach is necessary at this time.

Yesterday’s Addendum was also intended to enable only the explicitly described additional activities, with the limitations noted in the Order Addendum. Please see that Addendum (C20-3, A4) for specifics, and note the following clarification:

The expiration date of the existing Shelter-in-Place Order remains **May 3, 2020**. An extension of the Order and/or updated Orders will be forthcoming. The term of the Order and its restrictions will depend on modifications that the governor makes to the State Orders, and will also be based on the trajectory of the infection in Lake and neighboring counties.

The addendum from April 23, only, expires on **June 1**.

A further Addendum (C20-A5) to the Shelter-in-Place Order, effective today (April 24) at 5pm, accompanies this Press Release and offers clarification of the status of boating and fishing in Lake County. Please refer to today’s Addendum for specifics, but in light of questions received from the public, I will offer the following clarification here:

Limited permissions of boating and fishing apply to all City and County public waterways in Lake County.

Public Health has also been informed Hidden Valley Lake is open to residents with restrictions, consistent with yesterday's Order Addendum (C20-A4).

Fishing is allowed from the shoreline only. No fishing from boats is permitted.

Swimming in waterways is not permitted.

We understand the Orders have severely affected people and businesses, and have sought to take reasonable, evidence-based action to promote Public Health throughout the COVID-19 crisis. We will continue to monitor all available indicators of COVID-19 activity, and consider reintroduction of further activities, as appropriate. Again, activities will be reintroduced gradually, in the interest of public health.

Significant risks associated with COVID-19 do remain. Particularly as restrictions begin to loosen, it is essential that people:

- Maintain social distancing, keep good hygiene, and preferably wear masks when out.
- Vulnerable populations (over 65 and/or with chronic medical conditions) should continue to stay safe at home.
- We strongly discourage people from crossing county lines, since this is an important way that the virus spreads.

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, send an email request: MHOAC@lakecountyca.gov.

You can also call during business hours: 707-263-8174

Thank you for continuing to respect and protect your neighbors by exercising precautions, as consistent with State and local Health Orders. Your cooperation with recommended precautions has made a tremendous difference so far, and will only become more important, as restrictions loosen.

Gary Pace MD, MPH