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

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

#### **Fourth COVID-19-Related Death in Lake County**

Gary Pace, MD, MPH

**Lake County, CA (August 29, 2020)** — Late yesterday, we received confirmation a fourth Lake County resident had died with a COVID-19-related illness. This person was older than 65, was living in a residential facility, and had very serious, long-term medical issues. They had a positive COVID-19 test when they passed away yesterday.

Our hearts, thoughts, and deepest condolences go out to all of those connected to this individual. To protect the privacy of this person and their family, we will not be giving out any further information at this time.

Whenever an individual in a congregate living situation tests positive for COVID-19, there is great concern others may have been exposed. Staff at the residential care facility are appropriately responding by testing, isolating and quarantining residents and employees, alike, using established protocols. The County of Lake's Public Health Division and the California Department of Public Health have both provided consultation, and every available measure is being taken to limit the probability of spread.

This is yet another tragic reminder that all Lake County residents must take precautions that can slow the spread of this virus. Potential consequences of a lack of vigilance are profound, and some COVID-positive individuals have few or no symptoms.

We must pull together to defeat this virus. Each of us can do our part by taking simple precautions, like wearing a mask when outside of our households. Making safe personal choices limits the chance we will unknowingly transmit the virus to others.

Thank you for continuing to do your part to protect those most vulnerable.

Gary Pace, MD, MPH