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Promoting an Optimal State of Wellness in Lake County

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COVID-19 Update: Post-Labor Day Rise in Lake County Cases *Recent Data Trends Will Bring Further Restrictions if Not Reversed*

LAKE COUNTY, CA (September 21, 2020) – Over the weekend, we saw a significant rise in cases and surpassed 500 total in Lake County. Another heart-breaking fatality (this one was not associated with a Senior Residential Facility) has brought our COVID-related death total to 11. One Senior Facility has had over 30 confirmed cases in residents, 20 staff, and seven deaths. Another facility has two resident cases and four staff have tested positive. It appears the usual course is a staff member becoming infected in the community, and bringing it to work. Multiple other situations of COVID infection are arising in care workers and local businesses.

Labor Day was two weeks ago today, and post-holiday increases are common. We have all been sacrificing many normal experiences for six months now. It is tough to maintain a high level of vigilance; masking, avoidance of social gatherings, and proper social distancing all seem to be decreasing in our communities.

Given the increase in cases, our recent numbers are consistent with the State's most restrictive tier, Purple (Tier 1). If this trend continues, the State will force us to close indoor dining and add other restrictions. Schools not open for on-site instruction by the time we get to that point will not be able to open until we get back into the Red Zone (Tier 2), and stay there for two weeks. These are State mandates. We sacrifice local control when we fail to take basic precautions known to slow the spread.

Most of us want to keep businesses open, and resume on-site learning at schools as soon as it is safe. How do we accomplish this? Slowing transmission in the community by wearing masks and avoiding gatherings with people outside of our households. Indoor gatherings are high risk, and may have particularly serious consequences if you or someone in your family works in a setting with vulnerable people (like a nursing home, homeless shelter, hospital or jail).

Gary Pace, MD, MPH