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COVID-19 Update: Trends Remain Positive; Changes Coming to State Blueprint Framework *Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) One-Dose Vaccine Available in Lake County Thursday, 3/11*

Lake County, CA (March 5, 2021) — The past year has seen more than 50,000 Californians die of COVID-19-related illness. This sobering reality makes current progress toward broader vaccination, lower case rates and, ultimately, a more normal lifestyle all the more important and heartening. New infections in Lake County and around our state continue to drop. Our test positivity rate is 4.9%. Even with this remarkable improvement, Lake County's current Case Rate is 11/100,000, meaning the virus remains widespread.

BLUEPRINT FOR A SAFER ECONOMY: WHERE WE ARE NOW; CHANGES EXPECTED

While we are still in the Purple Tier, 18 counties are now in the Red Tier or better, and we are progressing in that direction. Under current guidelines, we will need to have a case rate of 7/100,000 and testing positivity rate 8% or lower for two weeks to advance to the Red Tier. This would allow more indoor activities, like some indoor dining, and Middle and High Schools will be able to open. We are hopeful this will occur in the coming weeks.

Loosening of these metrics is expected, as more people get vaccinated. Once 2 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered in the most vulnerable communities around the state (lowest 25%, per the California Healthy Places Index), the Red Tier will expand to 10 cases per 100,000, up from 7. The State expects this to occur within the next few weeks. Once 4 million doses have been administered in these communities, a Case Rate of 6/100,000 will qualify counties for the Orange Tier (up from 3.9). Changes to "certain sector specific guidance" are also expected, "to incorporate learnings from the last year about how the virus spreads":

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/COVID19CountyMonitoringOverview.aspx>

<https://map.healthyplacesindex.org/>

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE: JOHNSON & JOHNSON (JANSSEN) AVAILABLE THURSDAY, 3/11

9,600 first doses of the vaccine have been administered in Lake County, and 4,800 people have received a second dose. 50% of those 75+ have gotten their doses, 40% of people aged 65-74 have been vaccinated. This is a true success.

We had hoped to be switching to the state's MyTurn appointment platform this coming week. Unfortunately, there continue to be some technical difficulties that we are working with the state to resolve. Until that happens, we will continue with the current setup. Information on the State's plans to standardize vaccinations statewide is available here:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/NR21-066.aspx>

Priorities for vaccination have recently shifted. Lake County is now aligned with the State framework -- anyone eligible on the State list (Phase 1a, people 65+, food and agricultural workers, education, and emergency workers who meet certain criteria) can sign up for an appointment. The State anticipates opening eligibility to janitors and public transit drivers next; watch for further updates soon:

<https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/>

We are expecting to get about 3,000 first and second doses next week. For the first time, the new one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be among those. All three vaccines are considered effective, and whichever one is available when you make an appointment is the one you should take.

Generally, we can't give an option for which vaccine to get. Next Thursday (3/11), however, we will be administering the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, only. If you, or someone you work with, would benefit from the one-shot vaccine (for example, you will be out of town in a month, farmworker, migratory, homeless, other person that is hard to reach to arrange follow-up or with difficulties getting in), next Thursday will be a good day to make an appointment. We don't know if or when we will be getting more.

To make an appointment, visit <http://health.co.lake.ca.us/Coronavirus/Vaccines.htm>. More information on the process and supports for those unable to schedule online is also available here:

<http://www.lakecountyca.gov/Government/PressReleases/update030121.htm>

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