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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **COVID-19 Update: Vaccine Eligibility is Quickly Expanding**

*Lake County Residents Age 16-49 Can Complete Our Interest Form Now*

**Lake County, CA (April 2, 2021)** – More than 33% of Lake County residents age 16+ have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. We need your help to significantly increase that number, so we can all safely resume in-person activities that make life deeply enjoyable!

Vaccine eligibility expanded to include all Californians age 50+ this week. People 16+ will qualify April 15.

If you are a Lake County resident age 16-49, and want to be vaccinated as soon as possible, please complete our Interest Form. If there are open appointments prior to April 15, we will contact you to schedule:

[http://health.co.lake.ca.us/Coronavirus/Vaccines/Vaccination\\_Request\\_Form.htm](http://health.co.lake.ca.us/Coronavirus/Vaccines/Vaccination_Request_Form.htm)

Next week's appointments are now available at <https://MyTurn.ca.gov>. People unable to schedule online can call the CA COVID-19 Hotline, 833-422-4255; help is available in Spanish and English. Lake County Office of Education is also providing Spanish language assistance Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm. Call 707-262-4162, 707-262-4153 or 707-262-4159.

Over the last few weeks, many vaccination appointments have gone unfilled. Rest assured, no vaccine is wasted; unused doses are saved for future clinic dates or distributed to community partners. However, we want to fill up ALL available appointments, so more people are protected.

### **Why aren't more people signing up to be vaccinated?**

The State's eligibility criteria may still be too strict; some who are eager to get the vaccine haven't had the chance.

Online scheduling platforms are a barrier for some. Helpful tips and phone numbers to call for support are posted at:

<http://health.co.lake.ca.us/Coronavirus/Vaccines.htm>.

### **“Vaccine Hesitancy” is common in our region**

“Vaccine Hesitancy” is lack of interest in being vaccinated, or a strong belief it would be harmful. An article in yesterday's (4/1) Press Democrat noted "nearly one in four adults in the North Bay (Sonoma, Marin, Napa and Solano Counties) are reluctant to receive a coronavirus vaccination," with opposition to the vaccine higher than in other parts of the Bay Area:

<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/north-bay-lies-at-center-of-opposition-to-coronavirus-vaccinations-in-bay-a/>

### **Approved COVID-19 vaccines are very safe and highly effective**

It is very clear the safety profile of the current vaccines approved for use in the US (Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson and Johnson) is very good. Severe reactions and side effects are extremely rare; we serve 500-1,000 people per day, and no serious reactions have occurred at our clinics.

All three vaccines have also proven highly effective in protecting people from serious illness and death. COVID-19 is prevalent in our communities, and variants bring additional concerns for those that are not vaccinated. Please don't wait!

### **Tired of business restrictions and spending so much time at home? Get vaccinated!**

The more people get vaccinated, the sooner we get back to normal. We will likely see a pattern in coming months where unvaccinated people are getting sick and testing positive, while vaccinated people are not. Some activities and events will likely require proof of vaccination to participate. Those who have gotten the shot will also worry less about getting and spreading the virus to coworkers, family and friends.

### **Where can I get vaccinated in Lake County?**

Health Services Department Drive-Thru Clinics (schedule first *and* second dose appointments at <https://MyTurn.ca.gov> – *please remember to bring the card received at your first dose appointment to your second dose appointment*):

- Lakeport: Mondays, 10am-4pm, Lakeport Auto Movies (52 Soda Bay Road)
- Clearlake: Tuesdays-Thursdays, 10am-4pm, Redbud Park (14655 Lakeshore Dr.)

Adventist and Sutter are hosting vaccine clinics for all eligible community members (*not just their registered patients*):

- Adventist Health – 707-995-4500
- Sutter Health – 844-987-6115, or <https://www.sutterhealth.org/for-patients/health-alerts/covid-19-vaccine>

Safeway in Lakeport has a limited supply of vaccine, as well (*their webpage has not been updated to list all current eligibility criteria, but you can self-attest you are eligible, and bring proof of eligibility to your appointment; people not qualified will be denied vaccine*):

[https://mhealthcheckin.com/covidvaccine?clientId=1611269027315&region=NorCal\\_-2&urlId=%2Fvcl%2F0983lakecounty](https://mhealthcheckin.com/covidvaccine?clientId=1611269027315&region=NorCal_-2&urlId=%2Fvcl%2F0983lakecounty)

North Lake Pharmacy (707-263-1328 or 707-263-6192) is also doing some vaccination.

Lake County Tribal Health Consortium patients can visit <http://www.lcthc.com/> or call 707-263-8382.

### **Do you have concerns about the vaccine or obstacles to getting one?**

Please let us know! It will help us understand how we can expand protection throughout our community.

Write to [MHOAC@lakecountyca.gov](mailto:MHOAC@lakecountyca.gov) or call 707-263-8174 with any feedback that can help increase vaccine access in Lake County.

Gary Pace, MD, MPH