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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **COVID-19 Update: Two “Delta Variant” Cases Confirmed in Lake County**

*Vaccination Remains the Best Way to Keep Yourself, Your Family and the Community Safe –  
Wearing a Mask in Most Indoor and/or Group Settings is Essential if You are Unvaccinated*

**Lake County, CA (July 1, 2021)** — Lake County’s Testing Positivity and daily Case Rates have begun to increase after an all-time low during mid-June. Two cases of the “Delta Variant” have now been confirmed in Lake County, a stark reminder COVID-19 remains a present and evolving threat, despite relaxation of business and activity restrictions statewide. The CDC and California Department of Public Health characterize Delta (B.1.617.2) as a Variant of Concern, as it is “Hypertransmissible,” and “May have moderately decreased response to antibody treatments.”

Unvaccinated individuals continue to face significant risk of severe illness, should they come into contact with the virus, and with people now moving about more in our communities, precautions are essential. The best tool available is vaccination. Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccines have continued to prove protective, even against the Delta Variant. Rare “breakthrough cases,” those identified among fully vaccinated individuals, have generally been quite mild or even asymptomatic.

People at high risk of severe complications (e.g. age 65+, people of any age with a history of heart, lung or auto-immune disorders or diabetes) that have not already been vaccinated should strongly consider doing so. If you are concerned the vaccine may not be safe for you because of a history of allergic reactions or other particular factors, please consult your doctor and get your questions answered. Online resources such as <https://yourvaccinationguide.org/> can also be helpful.

Personal stories shared via social media can complicate understanding of the risks associated with vaccination. Severe reactions to approved COVID vaccines have remained extremely rare. For almost all individuals, getting vaccinated is a very low risk, and you can meaningfully reduce the risk of COVID-related illness and death for yourself and everyone you come into contact with!

### **Vaccination Opportunities through Local School Districts**

The Health Services Department’s Public Health Division has recently been making safe, free and effective COVID-19 vaccines available to students in local schools and their families, in partnership with our School Districts and the Lake County Office of Education. First dose vaccination events have been hosted in Lower Lake, Kelseyville, Lakeport and Upper Lake. Here are some upcoming dates:

- **Tuesday, July 6, 4-7pm**, Upper Lake Unified School District Students and Families: 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose Clinic (Pfizer), Upper Lake High School Cafeteria, 675 Clover Valley Rd.
- **Friday, July 9, 12-4pm**, Lakeport Unified School District Students and Families: 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose Clinic (Pfizer), Lakeport Elementary School Cafeteria, 150 Lange St.
- **Monday, July 19, 10:00am-3:00pm**, Konocti Unified School District Students and Families: 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose Clinic (Pfizer), Lower Lake High School New Gym 9430 Lake St.
- **Wednesday, July 21, 4-7pm**, Kelseyville Unified School District Students and Families: 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose Clinic (Pfizer), Kelseyville High School Student Center 5480 Main St.

As these clinic dates approach, appointments will be available at <https://myturn.ca.gov/>, and walk-ins are also welcome.

Information on all local vaccination options is available here:

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

### **COVID-19 Data Reconciliation this Week**

County Public Health medical staff are currently undertaking a significant effort to appropriately document COVID-19-related deaths, applying criteria provided by the California Department of Public Health. Documentation regarding dozens of deaths not previously recognized as COVID-related was recently sent to counties across the state.

Thus far, this process has resulted in the identification of 11 additional Lake County-connected COVID-related deaths, bringing our total to 56. These newly-recorded deaths are not recent. Most occurred in December or January, when the pandemic was at its peak in California, and some date as far back as October. Further updates are expected. Each of these deaths was a tragedy for everyone connected to the person that lost their life.

### **Let's Come Together, and Put the Pandemic More Fully Behind Us!**

Lake County is strongest when we all work together to overcome challenges. The pandemic has been in many ways a more abstract threat than our wildfires and floods, but it similarly requires we all do our part to overcome it. As of Monday (6/28) 44.2% of eligible Lake County residents still had not received even one dose. Let's put COVID-19 more fully behind us, by getting vaccinated in even greater numbers!

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