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COVID-19 Update: Lake County's Case Rate Nearly 3 Times the State Average –
We ALL Need to Work Together to Turn Things Around
Changes to COVID-19 Data Pages Offer More Frequent Local Updates

Lake County, CA (August 6, 2021) — For the period from June 12-June 18, 2021, Lake County's Daily Case Rate was 0.7/100,000. Our Test Positivity stood at 0.7%. Universal masking in California ended June 15. Although unvaccinated individuals were still required to wear face coverings, many had a sense the pandemic was "over," and relaxed their commitment to the precautions that had brought Lake County's COVID-19 cases to low levels. Then, in late June, Lake County documented our first cases of the Delta Variant, a hyper-transmissible strain that has truly been game-changing.

Now, a month and a half post our June 12-18 low, the State is reporting Lake County's Case Rate as 57.7/100,000, nearly 3 times the State average. Our Test Positivity is 17.4%, more than double the statewide rate. 15 Lake County residents are hospitalized due to COVID-19, 5 in the ICU. These numbers do not include those currently receiving hospital-based care outside of Lake County. No local ICU beds are available.

This is the type of strain we expected in winter. Vaccination efforts were in their infancy. People were questioning whether minor symptoms were COVID or the common cold. However, with 40% of those eligible (age 12+) and nearly half of all Lake County residents still unvaccinated, the virus has opportunity to spread and mutate. During the month of July, unvaccinated individuals were six times more likely to become infected in Lake County.

We CAN Turn Current Trends Around

Masking and maintaining physical distancing are key right now. If you visit high-foot-traffic areas where maintaining social distancing is difficult, or attend events with people from many households, the risk of COVID-19 is there. Are you concerned you may have been exposed? Get tested. Are sick, or have you been around anyone that was sick? Get tested! Our local Case Rate is very high. People have gotten quite sick and died from COVID in Lake County; likely some people you know. Don't you want to know if you are infected?

With the Delta Variant, aerosol spread is more common. Tiny, free-flowing virus particles that can linger in the air for minutes to hours are causing new infections. The CDC is recommending even fully vaccinated people wear masks, especially indoors. The Lake County Board of Supervisors acted Tuesday to require universal masking in all County-operated facilities. California Counties with Case Rates one-third as high as ours have imposed stronger mandates. Why? Face coverings work! Here are some helpful resources on Face Coverings and the Delta Variant:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/sars-cov-2-transmission.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/p0714-americans-to-wear-masks.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

<https://health.ucdavis.edu/coronavirus/covid-19-information/delta-variant.html>

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2108891>

COVID-19 vaccines have proven highly protective against severe illness and death. Areas all around the country are reporting 90% of hospitalized patients are unvaccinated. Many people remain hesitant, some because of side effects that are less common than severe complications from COVID-19. If you have questions, please reach out to your treating doctor. If you want to get vaccinated, but are facing barriers, call 707-263-8174.

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

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

Changes to COVID-19 Data Pages Offer More Frequent Local Updates

In our ongoing effort to understand COVID-19 transmission and improve outcomes in our communities, Lake County Public Health tracks demographic, geographic and clinical information about confirmed COVID-19 cases. This data is presented at http://health.co.lake.ca.us/Coronavirus/COVID-19_Data.htm.

We are very pleased to announce substantial revisions to this page are now live, and offer more information and more frequent updates. Finding Lake County data via the State's webpages can be cumbersome. Now, it is collected in one easy to review place. Each resource includes an annotation noting when the data was last updated. Check each business day for new information!

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