

COUNTY OF LAKE
Health Services Department
Public Health Division
922 Bevins Court
Lakeport, California 95453-9739
Telephone 707/263-1090
FAX 707/263-4395



Carol J. Huchingson
Interim Health Services Director

Jennifer Baker
Interim Deputy Health Services Director

Gary Pace, MD, MPH
Public Health Officer

Eileen VanCleave
Public Health Nursing Director

Iyesha Miller
Public Health Program Manager

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 22, 2021

Contact: MHOAC Team
707-263-8174

COVID-19 Update: Stay Safe this Cold and Flu Season

Vaccination and Testing Options are Available in Lake County

Lake County, CA (October 22, 2021) -- COVID-19 remains prevalent in Lake County communities. From October 6-13, our daily Case Rate was 15.4 cases/100,000. While this is significantly lower than we saw during our August peak, it remains more than twice the 7.0/100,000 “Purple Tier” (*Widespread Transmission*) threshold formerly used in the State’s “Blueprint for a Safer Economy.” Tragically, 41 people have died of COVID-related illness since July 1, nearly 40% of all Lake County COVID-related deaths (*39.4%, 104 total*).

In recent weeks, unvaccinated Californians have been approximately 7 times more likely to contract COVID-19 than their vaccinated counterparts. Vaccination has also reduced risk of COVID-19-related hospitalization by greater than 10 times, and death by more than 15 times, statewide.

We all celebrate the fact schools have returned to in-person instruction and many community activities and events have resumed. With this increased interaction across households, testing and vaccination are key to ensuring our local healthcare system sees manageable COVID-19 caseloads.

Stay Safe this Cold and Flu Season

Testing is particularly important now, during cold and flu season. Assuming your cough, congestion or runny nose are signs of a cold, or your fever and fatigue are a flu, can put others at life-threatening risk; all of these symptoms can be associated with COVID-19. Getting vaccinated is the best available defense, and approved COVID-19 vaccines are safe and appropriate for almost everyone.

There are numerous opportunities to access vaccination and testing in Lake County. The most current information is available at:

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

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

If you want to get vaccinated, and are facing barriers, call 707-263-8174.

OPTUM Mobile Van Available through November 3

Since September 1, the County of Lake has had access to an OPTUM Mobile Van, which has provided vaccination and testing in the communities of Nice, Middletown, Clearlake, Lower Lake and Lakeport. Unfortunately, this valuable resource has been underutilized. In total, 244 doses of vaccine were administered in 21 days of service in the month of September.

As a result, the last date of Lake County service for the OPTUM Mobile Van will be November 3. Inclement weather, such as the rain forecast between now and midweek next week, can also affect availability of OPTUM mobile services.

All of Us Can Act to Limit the Spread of COVID-19

Thank for taking steps to protect friends, loved ones and neighbors by:

- Getting vaccinated;
- Taking precautions (social distancing, frequent handwashing, face coverings), particularly in public indoor settings;
AND
- Seeking testing when you are concerned you may have been exposed or you are experiencing COVID-associated symptoms.

Your choices make a difference!

###