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## ***Promoting an Optimal State of Wellness in Lake County***

### **PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **COVID-19: 4 Additional Cases Identified; Cost Not a Barrier to Testing**

Gary Pace MD, MPH

**Lake County, CA (June 2, 2020)** – Late yesterday, another 4 cases of COVID-19 were identified in Lake County, bringing our total caseload to 30 cases. Of those, 11 are active. 1 is hospitalized. 1 is housed in Lake County Jail and in stable condition. The remaining 9 are stable and under home isolation. As reported yesterday, demographic information will be distributed only once we reach 50 confirmed cases.

Even with these latest identified cases, we are seeing some clusters of infections, but no widespread community transmission. Because of the robust contact tracing that occurs with each new positive test, it is common that secondary infections are identified. COVID-19 is highly contagious, and easily spread, particularly in the period before the individual knows they are infected. Face coverings and other precautions are recommended largely on this basis; unless proactive measures are taken, it is very probable one positive individual will infect others.

We have a significant number of active COVID-19 infections in Lake County right now, and investigations remain ongoing. It is possible further positive cases will be identified as that process progresses.

Additionally, increased social movement generally brings increased risk of COVID-19 infection, as the virus is pervasive in our region. While we have yet to have documented cases tightly related to reopening of a particular category of business activity, reasonable precautions should be exercised, and only increasingly so as sectors reopen.

If you think you may have been exposed, get testing right away. It may make a significant difference for people close to you.

#### **Cost Should Not Be a Barrier to Testing**

COVID-19 testing through private clinics can cost around \$130, inadvertently discouraging some from getting tested. Lake County Health Services offers free Drive-Thru testing at different locations around the county, open daily during the week. Go to the Verily website and get screened and make an appointment:

<https://www.projectbaseline.com/study/covid-19/>

Some have expressed frustrations surrounding the online registration process, and we really don't want this to be a barrier for those who think they may have been exposed. If you need assistance, please send an email request to [MHOAC@lakecountycalifornia.gov](mailto:MHOAC@lakecountycalifornia.gov) or call during business hours: 707-263-8174.

Frequently Asked Questions on Drive-Thru Testing are available here:

<http://health.co.lake.ca.us/Assets/Departments/Health/Public+Health+Division/COVID-19/Testing/TestingFacts.pdf>

**More information**

For Lake County-specific Coronavirus information, please continue to visit the Lake County Health Services Department's website, <http://health.co.lake.ca.us>.

The Lake County Coronavirus Response Hub has additional valuable resources:  
<https://lake-co-ca-coronavirus-response-lakecoca.hub.arcgis.com/>

Thank you for continuing to:

- Stay at home, except to engage in permitted activities
- Wear a face covering when away from home, to protect others
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others when out of your household
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds each time
- Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available
- Stay Safe at Home if you are at elevated risk of severe complications

Gary Pace, MD, MPH