



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



Denise Pomeroy
Health Services Director

Gary Pace, MD
Public Health Officer

Carolyn Holladay, PHN
Public Health Nursing Director

Iyesha Miller
Public Health Program Manager

Promoting an Optimal State of Wellness in Lake County

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fifth COVID-19-Related Death in Lake County

Gary Pace, MD, MPH

Lake County, CA (September 1, 2020) — Today, we received confirmation a fifth Lake County resident had died with a COVID-19-related illness. This was the second individual to pass away as a result of a cluster of cases in a local residential facility. Again, the individual was greater than 65 years old, and had chronic medical issues. They had tested positive for COVID-19 last week, and passed away early this morning.

We grieve with and extend our heartfelt condolences to all of those connected to this individual. To protect the privacy of this person and their family, we will not be giving out any further information at this time.

Additionally, our thoughts are with those connected to the residential care facility; this has been a trying time for many. The public can be reassured staff at the residential care facility are appropriately responding by testing, isolating and quarantining residents and employees, alike, using established protocols.

The County of Lake's Public Health Division and the California Department of Public Health also continue to provide consultation, and every available measure is being taken to limit the probability of spread.

This second tragic death reported in a period of four days again reinforces the need for all Lake County residents to take precautions. COVID-19 cases do not spontaneously arise in residential care facilities. They are transmitted by people that provide care and services; people that may not have even been aware they had COVID-19. Cases in residential facilities have shaken communities around the United States. We must be vigilant and slow the spread.

As I said over the weekend and during this morning's update before the Board of Supervisors, this is a critical time for our community. If we take precautions, we can slow transmission of the virus, protect the vulnerable, and allow local businesses to expand services.

Thank you for continuing to do your part!

Gary Pace, MD, MPH