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

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

#### **COVID-19 Update: Movement to Purple Tier Postponed**

**Lake County, CA (September 28, 2020)** — With a rise in cases documented over the past few weeks, we shared concern the State may move Lake County to the Purple Tier (most restrictive) Tuesday, September 29. The State has postponed that date by one week.

#### **What are our Numbers? How Likely is it We Will Move to Purple?**

Lake County has now documented 559 total cases, 20 new cases since Friday.

By our calculations, our new case rate for the week of 9/13-9/19 was 16.3/100,000 residents (7+ is Purple), and our test positivity was 7.8% (5-8% is Red Tier). Our case rate for 9/6-9/12 was 8.8/100,000, but because we are a small County, and many of those cases were associated with a single outbreak, the State agreed to grant us another week (September 20-26) to observe whether the case rate in our general population stays high.

Data for September 20-26 is still coming in, but it is probable we will move to the Purple Tier Tuesday, October 6, with businesses having three additional days to comply. Business owners are encouraged to plan for this.

#### **What Happens to Businesses and Schools if We Join the Purple Tier?**

Businesses and enterprises considered high-risk must move all services outdoors (restaurants, movie theaters, worship services, gyms/fitness centers, etc.). Select a Purple Tier County (e.g. Butte) to see all restrictions: <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/>

Schools that have opened for on-site learning prior to our joining the Purple Tier can stay open if we move to Purple. Schools offering remote learning, only, will have to wait until we get back to the Red Tier, and sustain that over two consecutive 7-day reporting periods, to offer on-site instruction.

#### **Our Actions Make a Difference!**

We are all tired and frustrated by how long the COVID-19 pandemic has endured, but rising cases mean we all must observe recommended and mandated precautions. COVID-19 can be serious, even fatal. If it continues to spread, we will be forced to further limit activities. The State will get increasingly involved in local affairs.

We all want to be free to live our lives. Right now, we promote that when we wear a mask, keep a safe distance, and avoid gatherings, particularly indoors, with people outside of our households. Also, by taking special care if we, or family members, work with vulnerable people. Our actions make a difference!

Gary Pace, MD, MPH