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Lake County's 8th, 9th and 10th COVID-19-Related Deaths Reported

30 Cases, 7 Deaths at Residential Care Facility; 2 New Cases at 2nd Facility

LAKE COUNTY, CA – Lake County's Public Health Officer, Gary Pace, MD, MPH, reported three deaths associated with COVID-19-related illness today, all connected to the previously-identified outbreak. All three were greater than 65 years old, and had chronic health conditions.

"This outbreak has been heartbreaking for residents, family, and staff, and it is still being monitored," said Pace. "These cases appear to have been picked up in the community, and transmitted through the facility by people providing care and services. Many people have mild symptoms, and some unknowingly spread COVID-19. Risks for the vulnerable can be dire."

7 tragic deaths and 30 infections have occurred despite efforts of staff and public health officials.

Pace noted, "When an outbreak occurs in a residential facility, there are established protocols to stop the spread: weekly testing of residents and staff; use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); proper disinfection; and establishment of a separate COVID-19 ward for infected or exposed individuals. These guidelines are being followed now. The State's Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) team has visited and consulted. They did not identify any significant problems."

A different local facility has also identified two COVID-19-positive staff members.

"They are now isolated, and this facility has put all residents in quarantine, and begun testing all residents and staff; families are being notified, as well," said Pace. "We are in the early stages of determining if this is a separate significant outbreak or if the virus has been prevented from spreading."

To protect the privacy of all concerned, no further information will be provided at this time. As 10 deaths have now been reported, Press Releases will not be issued regarding each death.

Data regarding Lake County's 433 documented COVID-19 infections is available here: http://health.co.lake.ca.us/Coronavirus/COVID-19_Data.htm

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