



COUNTY OF LAKE

Board of Supervisors

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PRESS RELEASE **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Public Health Orders are Community-Driven

County Insights from Moke Simon, Chair of the Board of Supervisors

LAKE COUNTY, CA (June 4, 2020) – Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Lake County's Public Health Officer, Gary Pace, MD, MPH has remained in constant contact with local stakeholders, including business leaders and the medical community, in an effort to refine restrictions to match Lake County's actual risks and ability to respond.

From a Public Health standpoint, roughly a quarter of our nearly 68,000 residents are at elevated risk of severe complications from COVID-19, and we have 50 licensed and staffed hospital beds and 8 ICU beds. Potential for widespread severe respiratory illness is an area of significant concern with this virus, and we have 11 ventilators.

Economically, Lake County has faced longstanding disadvantage, and COVID-19 is our 11th local disaster in just a 5-year period. Available funding for unemployment, entitlement and business loan programs have helped to limit some of the damage we could have endured as a result of the pandemic, but this is of little comfort to business owners that are losing everything as their businesses remain closed.

Balancing input from a variety of sources is essential to our local decision-making.

The Blue Collar Committee, led by County Supervisors Rob Brown and Eddie Crandell in cooperation with a cross-section of local business leaders, has galvanized the local business community, and lent a meaningful voice.

Lake County's COVID-19 Recovery Workgroup includes executive leaders from the Cities of Clearlake and Lakeport and the County of Lake, as well as Law Enforcement, and has been tasked with providing key input to our Public Health officer. I have been honored to be a part of that group.

All Health Orders reflect consideration of a broad set of risk factors. They are never the work of an isolated individual.

We strongly encourage members of the public to make your needs and ideas known.

Non-emergency public feedback is always welcome at the Board of Supervisors' vision@lakecountyca.gov email address. Input can also be sent to MHOAC@lakecountyca.gov.

Please refer to COVID-19 Recovery Workgroup in your subject line, if you wish to provide particular feedback on loosening of restrictions.