



MEDIA RELEASE

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Stay at Home Order Still Vital, Thank You for Compliance

April 14, 2020 – The Lake County COVID-19 Response Team extends sincerely thanks all who have been respecting the Governor’s Stay-at-Home order. This compliance with mitigation measures is working, but it is not over yet. Emergency Management reminds residents that staying at home is the best way to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus and flatten the curve.

“We can’t thank those who are complying with the stay-at-home order, enough,” said BJ Kohlstedt, Lake County Emergency Manager. “We recognize that staying home, changing routines, and not coming up to cabins as the Governor recommended is difficult, but we hope that with this diligence we can do our part to continue flattening the curve and not overwhelm our local health systems.”

Lake County is fortunate to not yet have any positive cases; however, residents in rural areas of the state are at higher risk. As Commissioner Jan Malcolm, Minnesota Department of Health indicated in her April 8 public address, “Past data on Minnesota’s population health statistics show that rural Minnesotans are, on average, older, and also have more underlying health conditions than the state population as a whole. Which means they too are at higher risk for severe COVID-19 related illness. That fact, combined with the smaller number of hospital beds and other health resources in rural Minnesota, means we really need people in all corners of the state, rural and urban, to be taking this risk seriously and we need all Minnesotans in all counties to please follow the health and social distancing and stay-at-home guidance.”

In the same address, Governor Tim Walz stated, two or three cases in a rural hospital is enough to overwhelm the ventilator system. “Lake View Memorial Hospital, Lake County’s only hospital, does not have an Intensive Care Unit or any ventilators in the county, nor does neighboring Cook County,” said Lisa Hanson, Lake County Director of Health & Human Services. “Any severe cases of COVID-19 locally would need to be transported to Duluth.”

The Lake County Emergency Operations Center team asks everyone to hang in there and continue compliance with the Stay-at-Home order and mitigation measures.

For local information regarding COVID-19 and available resources, residents can go to the COVID-19 online hub accessible through the County’s website at www.co.lake.mn.us and follow the Lake County Facebook page @LakeCountyMN for regular updates.

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