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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LEADVILLE/LAKE COUNTY**

**(LEADVILLE, COLO, JUL 09, 2020) – Change to COVID-19 Case Reporting in Lake County**

In order to better monitor current active COVID-19 infections and presumed viral spread in the Lake County community, Lake County Public Health Agency (LCPHA) will be changing the way it reports new positive cases. Beginning July 9th, LCPHA will include only new PCR (active infection) test results in its on-going COVID-19 case count reports. All positive antibody tests (indications of prior, resolved COVID infection) will still be tracked and evaluated, but will not be combined into reports of the count of total positive cases to date.

LCPHA is making this change to better represent current presence of COVID-19 in Lake County. Most individuals who have had recent positive antibody tests in Lake County were sick many weeks or months prior to their testing. Thus, their antibody test results are not presumed to be an indicator of recent exposure or infection, nor of current COVID-19 presence in Lake County. However, Lake County does continue to detect new active infections, indicating viral spread is still occurring here. The most recent positive PCR test result was reported today, July 9, 2020.

LCPHA will continue to report total cases to date (including how many new active cases were identified) and how many active cases are currently being monitored. Should the need arise, LCPHA will report any COVID-19 deaths in the future. LCPHA's case counting and reporting approach follows the State of Colorado and Center for Disease Control guidelines.

Residents and visitors to Lake County should still continue to practice COVID-19 precautions including social distancing, wearing a face covering in public, practicing good hand hygiene, and staying home if sick.

Lake County has identified 54 positive COVID-19 cases (31 active infection results, 23 positive antibody results) and performed 1202 COVID-19 tests to date. Three (3) active infections are currently being monitored by LCPHA.

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