

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 Inten-

sive 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 informa-

tion 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.



COVID-19 Lake View: "We need to buy more time"

By Kitty Mayo

This week Greg Ruberg, president/CEO at Lake View Clinic & Hospital in Two Harbors wants to convey the message that north shore residents have done their part to keep COVID-19 relatively at bay, and that they need to continue the same practices.

"I want to communicate appreciation that the community keeps doing the right thing to buy time so we can build the tools we need. The things we are doing are working to flatten the curve, and we need to not take our foot off the gas," said Ruberg in a phone call Tuesday morning (April 14).

Those "right things" are:

- Staying home and avoiding gathering in groups.
- Social distancing/maintaining at least six feet between people.
- Wearing masks when necessary to go out in public.

COVID-19 Modeling. Ruberg discussed the various projection models that are being used by government and health officials to make planning decisions. While all projections are imperfect and are at best estimations of possible future scenarios, they are the best guide for the moment.

The University of Minnesota modeling being used by the Minnesota Department of Health predicts 6,000 to 36,000 deaths in the state, with a peak surge coming mid-July. Another model frequently cited is the IHME (Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation) from the University of Washington that currently is indicating health care resource use peaking by the end of April and deaths in Minnesota in the hundreds.

The vast divergence of the two models is difficult to explain, but Ruberg says that one difference is that the U of MN model goes out a year, with the Washington model looking out only until August. Ruberg says that both models are important to take into account, with the attitude of planning for the worse case scenario and hoping for the best.

"The big concern is that we continue to take aggressive steps to slow the impact of COVID-19 to allow more time to meet the demand of more ICU beds if the outcome turns out to be more dire," said Ruberg.

Testing. An ongoing challenge, according to Ruberg, is the lack of much needed testing supplies. Reporting an adequate infrastructure for processing tests through Lake View and St. Luke's, actually tests are just not available. Minnesota has completed just over 38,000 tests, but Governor Walz has indicated a need to process at least 40,000 per week in order to contain the virus.

"We need to be able to test for who has the virus, trace their contacts and isolate those people in order to strategically open things back up," said Ruberg.

A vaccine is our ultimate goal. Ultimately, Ruberg says all efforts are set to minimize harm until a vaccine for COVID-19 is available.

Once again, Ruberg emphasized what every individual needs to know: "We need to stay home, wear masks, and slow the spread of the virus to buy time until we have more tools for testing, more hospital beds to treat the sick, and ultimately a vaccine to stop the virus."

DNR temporarily closes Grand Portage State Park amidst COVID-19 pandemic

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has temporarily closed Grand Portage State Park along the Canadian Border on the North Shore of Lake Superior.

The DNR took the action at the request of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. The Band requested that the DNR close the park to the public due to concerns about health risks posed by COVID-19 and non-essential travel to the Park.

The Park is located entirely within the territorial boundaries of the Grand Portage Reservation and is situated on land owned by the Band and leased to the State.

Minnesota Laws explicitly established the Park to be a cooperative venture between the DNR and the Band

Under Governor Walz's Stay at Home Order, the public is advised to recreate close to home. Relatively few people who are not members of the Grand Portage Band live close to Grand Portage State Park, so its closure will not eliminate a significant close-to-home recreational opportunity. Closure of the Park includes closure of the associated rest area and Welcome Center.

Visitors are advised to check the DNR's webpage on current conditions and closures before heading out to recreate.

Century 21 Atwood &



Chris Mattila, REALTOR 218-220-0334 • cmattila@mchsi.com
Ashley LeBlanc, REALTOR, 218-220-8969
• aleblanc@c21atwood.com
Crystal Peterson, REALTOR, 218-220-0416

Silver Bay & Surrounding Area

- **36 Adams Blvd, SB** MLS6086742: 2 BR, 1 BA house w/full basement & det'd 1 car garage on level site w/glimpse of Lk Superior. Improvements incl: vinyl windows, good landscaping, & 8x10 shed. **\$80,000**
- **35 Edison Blvd, SB** MLS#6088540: 3 BR, 1 BA w/LG det'd garage. **\$97,000**
- **57 Edwards Dr, SB** MLS6087274: 3 BR, 1 BA house with a det'd 1 car garage & attached workshop on lg level site. Features: vinyl siding, wood frame windows & staired access to the attic. **REDUCED \$50,000**
- **18 Gibson Rd, SB**, MLS 6086911: Don't miss this 3 BR, 2 BA, basement house w/attached garage, rear deck, garden hot house, shed, & gardens. It's ready for you & your ideas. **REDUCED \$91,500**
- **104 Hays Cir, SB** MLS6086058: 2 BR, 2 BA, w/remod. Kit. & BA's, new shingles, fresh paint & some new flooring. Move in condition. **\$152,500**
- **XX Marks Dr, SB**: 5 – Large residential building sites w/city water, sewer, curb & gutter, back to woods **\$45,000 each or \$205,000 for all 5.**
- **61XX Little Marais Rd** MLS #'6076208: Lot B, Silver Bay, MN: 10 acre lot w/views of Lake Superior near Little Marais. reduced to **\$69,900**
- **6754 Riverside Dr, Finland** MLS6084175: 3BR, 1 BA, rear deck, att'd 2 car Gar, shed & compliant septic on level site. **\$113,000**
- **XXX Hwy 61 & Onion River Rd.** MLS6005052: 18 Acr. comm. resort bldg site between Tofte & Lutsen on Onion River Rd. Views