

August 20, 2020

Dear Live Oak Families and Friends,

This came via Allison Keaney's, Fairgrounds CEO, email early this morning and in the spirit of transparency, I wanted everyone to know about this. Really, this is what happens when wildfires intersect with COVID and the Fairgrounds being available and dedicated to support the community during these challenging times. I am grateful that we did materials pick up yesterday and that we are on Distance Learning!

"To all our Fairgrounds Tenants,

Around 2:00am, we received evacuees from one of the COVID-19 quarantine sites. The Best Wester Dry Creek in Healdsburg has been a facility for people who need to isolate because they are COVID-19 positive, have mild or no symptoms, and have nowhere else to isolate. You can read about the facility here:

<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/sonoma-county-secures-new-coronavirus-quarantine-site-at-healdsburg-hotel/>

The Dry Creek in needed to evacuate, and these evacuees are quarantined to the Showcase Building and wine garden. This area is self-contained and should be avoided at all times. The County has contracted with a medical team who is overseeing the operation, just as they have done at the Dry Creek Inn. The County has also provided all support to the facility including sanitation and security.

In the next day or two, the Beverly C. Wilson building will also be housing individuals with medical needs.

Both buildings and their immediate surrounding areas are to be treated as bio-secure areas, just like our livestock area. Fencing or barricades and signage will be erected, and only County appointed, designated staff are allowed in the area. All tenants, guests, customers, and staff are to avoid these areas.

Many fairgrounds are serving their communities in this capacity on a much larger scale, safely and successfully and we will follow their lead.

As conditions change, we may also open our gates to RVs in our overflow parking area across from Target."

I am confident that the FGs is taking all necessary precautions to ensure everything is being implemented in accordance with current health and safety guidelines and recommendations. Albeit important, this solution is temporary and in direct response to the wildfires. These are people who have been exposed, tested positive, and have mild symptoms and are quarantined until they have a negative test result.

Also, please note that these 21 evacuees do not have any access to any of the areas of Live Oak; there is no common sharing of spaces. Trained nurses and medical staff from Sonoma County are managing the care process as opposed to Red Cross staff.

The Fairgrounds is planning for business as usual in terms of vendors for the Drive-Thru Fair Food weekend happening this weekend as well as their Drive-In feature film offering. For more information, click here: <https://www.sonoma-marinfair.org/>

Thank you for your continued cooperation, kindness and patience during this unprecedented time.

Best,
Justin Tomola