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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

November 12, 2020

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

Today, we are reporting 20 new cases and 11 new cases yesterday. There were nine new cases of COVID-19 reported in Benzie County and eleven new cases of COVID-19 reported in Leelanau County. Yesterday, there were three new cases of COVID-19 reported in Benzie County and eight new cases of COVID-19 reported in Leelanau County. New cases are currently being investigated.

Two potential low-risk exposure sites. Potential low-risk public exposure locations for new cases where close contacts may not have been able to be identified) are listed below. If you were at either of these locations during the times identified, please monitor yourself for symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste/smell, fever, muscle aches, sore throat, fatigue, headache, runny nose/congestion, vomiting, diarrhea). If symptoms develop, notify your health care provider or seek out testing.

- Leland vs Suttons Bay Varsity Volleyball Game – Suttons Bay
 - 11/7/2020
- Boyne City vs Glen Lake Football Game- Glen Lake
 - 11/6/2020

MDHHS released guidance earlier this week for local health departments to realign priorities in case investigation and contact tracing as surging cases strain the public health system. They remind us that the core principles of case investigation are to:

- Ensure anyone who is positive for COVID-19 is aware of that status (through test results or symptoms/exposure)
- Educate people who have tested positive about isolation and household spread
- Identify close contacts of those who have tested positive and inform them of their need to quarantine to prevent secondary transmission
- Identify the source of exposure for those who have tested positive

The state has provided this guidance for case prioritization for county's that have more than 150 cases per million. As of today, [MI Start Map](#) shows:

- Leelanau is at 151.8 daily cases per million
- Benzie is at 187.2 daily cases per million

"Due to the surge in cases, every day we must prioritize our new cases according to these new guidelines, but our goal is to always attempt to contact all new positive cases," stated Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. "We continue our usual work of identifying positive cases as quickly as possible, but now we must prioritize the highest risk cases. These include cases at high risk for rapid spread or spread to those at risk for severe illness such as school staff, healthcare staff, and those living in congregate settings as well as prioritizing confirmed before probable cases. We are also using abbreviated versions of the case investigation so that isolation and quarantine can be initiated as quickly as possible, which is why we need everyone to understand and follow the instructions for isolation and quarantine even if we haven't been able to contact you."

As of 4:00pm, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting:

- Positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 182, Leelanau– 223
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 94, Leelanau– 102
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 85, Leelanau– 119
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 3, Leelanau– 2
- Probable COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie – 25, Leelanau– 21
- Hospitalized: 29 total; 3 current

The State of Michigan has reported 236,225 cases and 7,811 deaths.

Visit our [COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#) for the latest local information including recovered data and contact tracing. Michigan Department of Health and Human Service Dashboard: [Dashboard](#). Additional and updated information can be found on our [Website](#) and [Facebook](#) or by calling our public information line 231-882-2197. If you have COVID-19 related question, fill out a quick [survey](#), email questions to hotline@bldhd.org, or call our public information line at 231-882-2197.

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