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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release
November 16, 2020

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department has reported 45 new cases (Benzie- 20; Leelanau- 25) of COVID-19 since Saturday. Today's numbers will be reported tomorrow and in Friday's case summary. Below is a summary of our cumulative cases for the timeframe 11/14/2020 - 11/15/2020:

- Age:
 - 0-12 years – 0 case
 - 13-19 years – 6 cases
 - 20-29 years – 9 cases
 - 30-39 years – 4 cases
 - 40-49 years – 6 cases
 - 50-59 years – 3 cases
 - 60-69 years – 6 cases
 - 70-79 years – 7 cases
 - 80-89 years – 1 case
 - 90+ years – 3 cases
- Residents – 45 new cases
- Symptomatic – 86.4% of new cases, Asymptomatic – 13.6% of new cases that case investigations have been completed
- Recovered – 18 new recovered (Benzie-8, Leelanau-10)
- Case Transferred to another county's justification– 1 case in Leelanau

It is clear that there is community spread and we must continue to reduce our risk and prevent the spread of COVID19 by masking, keeping a distance from others, and washing our hands regularly. Due to the rise in confirmed cases, close contacts, and associated low-risk public exposure sites, we are no longer listing low-risk public exposure sites in our press releases. These businesses will continue to be contacted by the health department to inform them of the exposure. If during case investigation an individual discloses a public site of exposure and our team believes there to be an increased risk of exposure, we will then release the name, date, and time of the exposure.

In a unified effort to make COVID-19 testing more accessible to our region, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department, Honu Labs, Sleeping Bear Dune National Lakeshore, and Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians are joining forces to offer no-cost, drive-thru COVID-19 testing to the public Wednesday, November 18th, 2020. Testing will be held at the Sleeping Bear Dune Climb from 10:30am to 3pm. For more information or to pre-register, [click here](#).

Yesterday, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Director Gordon released [new emergency order](#) regarding [gathering restrictions](#) and face mask requirements. This order will take effect at 12:01am on Wednesday November 18th, 2020 and remains in effect through December 8th, 2020. The order was issued to enact a three-week pause targeting indoor social gatherings and other group activities in an effort to curb rapidly rising COVID-19 infection rates.

"The rapid increase in COVID-19 cases and the rise in hospitalizations and associated deaths we have seen locally is not something we take lightly. When we were charged with 'flattening the curve' back in the spring, we had a clear goal of protecting the healthcare system from an unmanageable surge. Not only do we need to protect the healthcare system right now, but we need to protect our economy, our schools, and our loved ones," stated, Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. "We ask our communities to take this three week pause seriously, it is up to each one of us to do what is right in order to prevent any additional restrictions or steps backward."

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

- Positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 208, Leelanau– 254
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 108, Leelanau– 121
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 97, Leelanau– 131
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 3, Leelanau– 2
- Probable COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie – 20, Leelanau– 20
- Hospitalized: 28 total; 3 current

The State of Michigan has reported 264,576 cases and 8,049 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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