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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

April 14, 2020

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

As of 2pm today, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting **one** new case of COVID-19 in Leelanau County; one male currently hospitalized and the case investigation is in process. That leaves the number of positive cases at zero in Benzie County and five in Leelanau County. The Health Department has recorded 112 individuals tested with 13 pending results. The State of Michigan has reported 27,001 cases and 1,768 deaths.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has expanded the priority testing requirements to include individuals with mild symptoms in certain circumstances, when testing supplies are available. MDHHS is providing support to Federally Qualified Health Centers such as Northwest Michigan Health Services, Inc. as part of its effort to increase testing access to as many Michiganders as feasible. The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is assisting in this local effort and is supportive of any strategies which increase testing capacity in our communities.

“We share the public’s concern for a better understanding of the timeline we may be facing,” shared Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “We hope that as more data is gathered through testing and contact tracing, we will be able to get a better sense of the timeframe and be better able to understand and mitigate the impact of this illness in our communities. We encourage our residents to continue to remain steadfast in their efforts to Stay Home and Stay Safe!”

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, in response to observed visitor behavior and guidance from public health officers, is announcing additional closures to support efforts to promote social distancing and slow the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Sleeping Bear Dune National Lakeshore has closed all park trails, trailheads, parking lots, and picnic areas until further notice starting today.

Additional and updated information can be found on our [Website](#) and [Facebook](#) or by calling our public information line 231-882-2197. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has a statewide hotline for COVID-19. Public health and other experts will answer health-related questions about COVID-19. The hotline will be open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1-888-535-6136.

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