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## PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

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**For Immediate Release**

**April 15, 2020**

### **The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update**

As of 2pm today, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting no additional cases of COVID-19. That leaves the number of positive cases at zero in Benzie County and five in Leelanau County. All close contacts of positive cases have been identified, contacted, and placed in isolation and quarantine as needed. The Health Department has recorded 121 individuals tested with 23 pending results. The State of Michigan has reported 28,059 cases and 1,921 deaths.

Next week, MDHHS is expected to begin reporting on the number of probable cases for each county, along with current reporting of laboratory confirmed cases and deaths. As we identify confirmed cases with a positive lab result, close contacts that then develop typical symptoms are identified through contact tracing. These individuals are considered “probable cases” as for many, testing is not necessary for their care, but they are very likely to be infected, and are treated the same as those cases that are lab confirmed. Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department Medical Director, Dr. Joshua Meyerson states “Tracking this data and sharing these numbers with the public will help improve our understanding of COVID-19 disease activity across the state and locally”.

We continue to see positive signs of progress including increased testing capacity, decreased strain on the supply chain, and northern Michigan hospitals able to care for patients presenting to them. We encourage our residents to continue to help each other through this difficult time – we will get through this as a community.

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.

Please show essential workers your gratitude by staying home, making infrequent, consolidated trips out to conduct essential business. Essential is defined as 'necessary to protect or sustain life'.

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