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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

April 16, 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 bringing the total number of positive cases to six with no positive cases reported in Benzie County. All close contacts of positive cases have been identified, contacted, and placed in isolation and quarantine as needed. The Health Department has recorded 129 individuals tested with 24 pending results. The State of Michigan has reported 29,263 cases and 2,093 deaths.

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department wants to remind residents that testing criteria for COVID-19 recently expanded per the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). As of Tuesday, April 14th Michigan's priority testing now includes the previously identified high risk groups of symptomatic individuals as well as people with mild symptoms as testing supplies are available. We also want to caution residents that expanded testing criteria and increased testing will likely cause an increase in positive COVID-19 case counts.

"It takes unbelievable resolve to stay positive through a crisis like this – the impact on our society and our economy is real," Lisa Peacock, Health Officer, emphasized. "The beauty we can see is that our existing partnerships are shining through in our ability to quickly plan, mobilize, and adapt to meet the needs of our communities. The support for each other in collective decision-making and the implementation of protective measures is a sure sign of partners who trust each other and have spent a lot of time working together to do what's right for the overall health of our residents."

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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