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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

April 18, 2020

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

As of 2pm today, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting three new cases of COVID-19 in Benzie and Leelanau County, bringing the total number of positive cases to seven in Leelanau County and two positive cases in Benzie County. All close contacts of positive cases have been identified, contacted, and placed in isolation and quarantine as needed. The State of Michigan has reported 30,791 cases and 2,308 deaths.

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department wants to continue to reminding residents that testing criteria for COVID-19 recently expanded per the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). There are testing facilities in both counties available to those who have symptoms, have a doctor's order, and have an appointment.

As criteria for testing has expanded and testing has become more available in our counties, we expect to see more positive cases. This, along with the expected reporting of probable cases, will likely continue to result in an increase in positive COVID-19 case counts. "By tracking this data and sharing these numbers with the public we hope to improve the understanding of COVID-19 disease activity across the state and locally", states Dr. Joshua Meyerson, Medical Director for the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department.

We are seeing early signs of progress in fighting this pandemic. This is an important sign that our efforts to stay in place are working. We remind our residents that it continues to be critical to stay home except for essentials, wear a face covering if you are out, and most importantly those who may be feeling even mild symptoms of any illness should not go out at all. Please stay home.

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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