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## PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

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**For Immediate Release**

**April 21, 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. Total case counts are four positive cases of COVID-19 in Benzie County and seven positive cases in Leelanau County. Once a positive case is reported to us, a case investigation begins which means all identified close contacts of positive cases are contacted and placed in isolation and quarantine as needed. The Health Department has recorded 156 individuals tested with 26 pending results. The State of Michigan has reported 32,967 cases and 2,700 deaths.

As of April 21<sup>st</sup>, at 8am, testing prioritization criteria have been expanded to include all health care workers and first responders in priority group 3 and have added a priority group four which includes critical infrastructure workers (symptomatic or asymptomatic). As the COVID-19 situation in the State of Michigan evolves, MDHHS continues to adapt resource and capacity planning to support the varied needs of partners in healthcare and public health. Given the continued expansion of COVID-19 testing capacity in Michigan, MDHHS is expanding the COVID-19 testing prioritization criteria to broaden the populations eligible for testing. Testing should still be prioritized for higher-risk populations as there continues to be constraints on the supply chain. Our local testing facilities and providers are continually adapting to the changing criteria and resources.

“As we have seen over the past few days, expanded testing will identify additional positive cases in our area. We know that this data will help us to better care for our communities as well as provide information that will be extremely important in the re-engagement process”, said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer.

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.

We appreciate the dedication of all critical infrastructure workers – please join us in protecting them by staying home, only leaving for essential needs when absolutely necessary.

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