For Immediate Release
April 6, 2020

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department yesterday declared Emergency Order 2020-1 requiring screening and social distancing measures at open businesses and operations subject to the Governor’s Executive Order 2020-21. The emergency order went into effect on Monday, April 6 at 12:00pm (noon). An Updated Business Toolkit for Essential Services is attached and available on the BLDHD website at www.bldhd.org.

Health Officer, Lisa Peacock shared “critical infrastructure workers and those who are seeking essential services are at increased risk to either get or spread the virus due to potential interactions with others outside of their household. Our intention is to achieve consistency in these protective measures such as screening and social distancing”.

As of 2pm, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting two additional cases of COVID-19 cases in Leelanau. Two positive cases have been reported in Leelanau County residents with an additional case reported who is a household contact from out of the area. For more information, see press release. The Health Department has recorded 74 individuals tested with 17 pending results. The State of Michigan has reported 17,221 cases and 727 deaths.

Yesterday, the MDHHS website indicated that Benzie County has a confirmed case of COVID-19. Upon investigation, we discovered that this was reported in error - the individual in question lives in Wayne County and does not have any affiliation with Benzie County. The State health department has corrected this error.

Finally, we want to ensure that the migrant population has access to health information and that those who are employing and housing them are screening their employees and have the ability to isolate and self-quarantine individuals should they become infected with COVID-19. The Health Department has been working closely with other local health departments and those who serve the migrant population. If you need support with this, please reach out to the Health Department at 1-833-674-2159.

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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