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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

May 13th, 2020

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department wants to remind residents that testing is available in our communities. Depending on the provider, an individual wanting to be tested for COVID-19 must meet the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services \(MDHHS\) testing priority criteria](#). However, we want to stress that anyone with mild symptoms *can* and *should* get tested for COVID-19, and any critical infrastructure employees or individual that has resumed in-person work can get tested even without symptoms.

“As we continue to increase testing resources in our region, we will be able to expand our capacity to test more, and eventually all, priority levels,” shared Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director. “We know our residents want to get tested, and we are actively working to equip our region for the increased testing necessary to support the State of Michigan’s goal to average 15,000 tests per day during the month of May. We would like everyone who has symptoms to be able to get tested.”

Testing for COVID-19 is a rapidly evolving situation as testing supplies become more available in our region. Currently, all tests require a doctor’s order. People should not let this be a barrier - area testing facilities such as Northwest Michigan Health Services, Inc. and the Health Department are committed to assisting those who need testing to get it. If you have symptoms, or otherwise need to get tested, and are unable to speak to a doctor for any reason please call 231-882-2197 or locate a testing facility, visit the [Michigan COVID-19 Test Finder website](#).

As of 2pm today, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting one additional case in Leelanau County. The case investigation and contact tracing for the newly reported case is currently in progress. Total case counts are now four positive cases of COVID-19 in Benzie County and ten positive cases in Leelanau County. The State of Michigan has reported 48,391 cases and 4,714 deaths.

This morning, we held a community conversation with over 30 partners within our two-county region to discuss and share response efforts and important information for the public. There were many questions about re-engagement planning and strategies. We continue to remain committed to supporting our communities and business partners as they move through the stages of re-engagement.

Visit our COVID-19 Data Dashboard for the latest local information including recovered data and contact tracing: [BLDHD COVID-19 Dashboard](#). 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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