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## PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

**For Immediate Release**  
**May 27th, 2020**

### **The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update**

Yesterday, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced it is greatly expanding testing criteria for COVID-19 to provide access to additional residents who do not have symptoms but are at risk.

The expanded criteria includes:

- Asymptomatic patients who are preparing for surgery if testing is deemed necessary by the treating health professional
- Asymptomatic people who have known exposure to someone who has COVID-19 or symptoms
- Those who leave home to go to work, especially those who work in a profession that puts them at high risk of exposure due to close contact with the public, such as dental technicians, or to COVID-19 outbreaks in certain industries like at food processing facilities.

The new testing criteria also emphasizes the need to expand options for people without symptoms who live in communities where there has been inequitable access to testing, as well as the need to increase the rate of people tested per day in these areas. This includes our northern Michigan region.

“We will be continuing to work with the State on several initiatives that will be important in keeping our communities safe and informed as well,” shared Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “The State has once again widened testing priority groups allowing pretty much anyone who wishes to be tested the chance to have a test. They have removed additional barriers related to cost and orders and we will continue to adjust our local testing strategies to match.”

Anyone who wishes to be tested may call the Michigan coronavirus hotline at 1-888-535-6136 or visit [Michigan.gov/CoronavirusTest](http://Michigan.gov/CoronavirusTest) to find an appropriate testing location, including a list of sites offering testing at no cost. Residents can locate testing sites by inputting their address or selecting state, county and ZIP code. Northwest Michigan Health Service, Inc in Traverse City/Leelanau located at 10767 E. Traverse Hwy, Traverse City, MI 49684 is offering a drive through testing site and for an appointment, call 231-642-5292.

As of 2pm today, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department continues to report four positive cases of COVID-19 in Benzie County and eleven positive cases in Leelanau County. The State of Michigan has reported 55,608 cases and 5,334 deaths. Visit our COVID-19 Data Dashboard for the latest local information including recovered data and contact tracing: [BLDHD COVID-19 Dashboard](#). Michigan Department of Health and Human Service Dashboard: [MI Safe Start Map](#). Additional and updated information can be found on our [Website](#) and Facebook or by calling our public information line 231-882-2197.

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