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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release
June 16th, 2020

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

As travel to our region continues to increase with warmer weather, we want to reassure and remind residents of a few important items. Many people ask about what happens if a visitor tests positive for COVID-19:

- If an individual visits either of our counties and tests positive for COVID-19, their local health department would conduct a case investigation to identify close contacts.
- Standard contact tracing helps determine where the individual was during the symptomatic period. During that process, if close contacts within our region were identified, the local health department would contact those affected as well as the Health Department of Northwest Michigan.
- If a visitor were to become ill with COVID-19 while in our jurisdiction, we ask that the hospital or provider contact us in addition to the local health department of the county of residence.
- If a seasonal resident is obtaining a test while residing in our region, we ask that they use their local address for testing.

These situations are rare and we want to remind our residents that each case investigation is different and the main focus is always identifying those close contacts at risk for exposure so they can be isolated or quarantined.

This weekend, Michigan residents have an additional opportunity to access to drive-thru testing in Benzie and Leelanau County. The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is partnering with LynxDx to administer COVID-19 testing in Suttons Bay High School on Saturday and Benzie Central High School on Sunday.

What you need to know:

- The drive-thru testing sites are going to run from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- You must be a Michigan resident, but do not need to reside in Benzie or Leelanau County. Bring your Driver's license or state ID
- Please bring your insurance card. There is no charge to participants for testing. If uninsured you can still be tested and will not be charged
- A doctor's order and appointment are not required.
- You may be tested if you have symptoms, or if you do not have symptoms.
- Results are expected to take about four days and participants will be notified of results by the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department.

Dr. Meyerson, Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department Medical Director, shares, "from a public health perspective, testing remains very important both to ensure early identification of infected individuals but also so that we can gain as much information as we can about the presence of this illness in our area. We are grateful to be partnering with LynxDX to offer this testing in our communities."

As of 2pm today, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is continuing to report total case counts of five positive cases of COVID-19 in Benzie County and twelve positive cases in Leelanau County. The State of Michigan has reported 60,189 cases and 5,790 deaths. Visit our [COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#) for the latest local information including recovered data and contact tracing. 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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