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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release
June 25th, 2020

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

As of 2pm today, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting seven additional cases in Leelanau County. These cases are associated with testing conducted last week by the National Guard in long term care facilities. The case investigation and contact tracing for the newly reported cases are currently in progress. Long term care facilities report positive cases to the State of Michigan and this information can be found [here](#). Total case counts are now five positive cases of COVID-19 in Benzie County and nineteen positive cases in Leelanau County. The State of Michigan has reported 62,306 cases and 5,887 deaths.

We have, and continue to work closely with the community, including congregate living facilities, to ensure everyone is able to provide their patients and staff with the best protection and care. This work has been most effective when community partners work together, which has been demonstrated by the swift response and collaboration between facilities with exposure to or new COVID-19 cases, the health department quickly addressing steps for isolation, and the necessary support for additional testing. Our local facilities, along with many long-term care providers throughout the nation, are working hard to battle the COVID-19 pandemic and we continue to support them in providing the best care for their residents.

In Benzie and Leelanau counties this past weekend, we tested 478 people for COVID-19 in a drive through testing facility made possible through a public-private partnership with LynxDx, a downstate lab recently repurposed for COVID testing. We are happy to say that all of the results have been received and are negative.

“This is wonderful news in so many ways,” shared Lisa Peacock Health Officer. “It means that it is likely that the overall prevalence in the general population in our area is low, it also means that we have an important partnership in place which will strengthen our future capacity for testing and that we have gathered a good deal of important surveillance data. This information taken out of context can also be dangerous. We can’t afford to allow this to reinforce any belief that COVID-19 is not a risk for us in northern Michigan.”

With travel restrictions lifted and rising cases in other areas of the region, state, and country, the virus will continue to circulate. The most effective protection we have relies on each of us to take personal responsibility for reducing our risk in the ways that we can. Several states across the country have had to take steps backward in their process of reopening due to the unfortunate violations of state and local orders requiring protective measures. Even Michigan’s nationally celebrated progress as one of the states most effectively containing COVID could be at risk if we don’t all continue to do our part.

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: [Dashboard](#). 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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