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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release
August 31, 2020

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

Today there were two new cases of COVID-19 identified in Leelanau County. The case investigation is in progress. Seven total cases (Leelanau- 6; Benzie-1) have been reported since Saturday, August 29th. The information known at this time is below:

- Age:
 - 20-29 years – 4 cases
 - 40-49 years – 1 case
 - 70-79 years – 2 cases
- Residents – 3 new cases, Non-residents – 4 new cases
- Symptomatic – 85.7% of cases, Asymptomatic – 14.3% of cases
- Newly Recovered – 3 cases (Leelanau- 2; Benzie- 1)
- Potential low-risk public exposure locations for new cases where close contacts may not have been able to be identified are listed below. If you were at this location during the times identified, please monitor yourself for symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste/smell, fever, muscle aches, sore throat, fatigue, headache, runny nose/congestion, vomiting, diarrhea). If symptoms develop, notify your health care provider or seek out testing.
 - Stormcloud Brewing Company (303 Main St. Frankfort, MI 49635)
 - Thursday, August 27th, from 4pm-10:30pm
 - The Buckle at Grand Traverse Mall
 - Friday, August 21st, from 11am-7:30pm
 - Saturday, August 22nd, from 11am-7:30pm
 - Sunday, August 23rd, from 12pm-5pm

The health department has been getting several questions regarding the release of exposure sites. Exposure sites are released when after case investigation, it is determined that close contacts cannot be identified or contacted. That is why restaurants and stores have been the source of many of the regional exposure sites. Most cases in Leelanau and Benzie are related to social gatherings or clusters where close contacts can be identified and contacted individually.

“We take releasing exposure sites very seriously to protect the community, the businesses, and the privacy of the individual,” stated Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “Being present at a low risk public site doesn’t increase the individual risk more than being present anywhere in the general public while we are experiencing community spread but we feel that sharing this information does help to raise general awareness of the presence of COVID-19 in our communities.”

As of 4:00pm, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting:

- Positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 43, Leelanau– 85
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 15, Leelanau– 21
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 26, Leelanau– 64
- Hospitalized: 15 total; 0 current
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 2, Leelanau– 0

The State of Michigan has reported 102,468 cases and 6,480 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: [Dashboard](#). Additional and updated information can be found on our [Website](#) and [Facebook](#) or by calling our public information line 231-882-2197. If you have COVID-19 related question, fill out a quick [survey](#), email questions to hotline@bldhd.org, or call our public information line at 231-882-2197.

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