For Immediate Release
April 12, 2020

Partnership Will Open Testing Site in Leelanau County

Northwest Michigan Health Service, Inc, in partnership with Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department will be offering appointment based, drive through testing starting Monday April 13th, 2020 at the Northwest Michigan Health Service, Inc Traverse City location.

Testing will be scheduled from 12:00 – 4:00 pm Monday through Thursday. Testing will be by appointment, and those needing testing will need to go through their primary care provider for triage first, then receive an order for testing. Those without a primary care provider can call Northwest Michigan Health Services’ triage line: 231-642-5292.

Priority populations for offsite testing are established by MDHHS guidelines, and include COVID-symptomatic patients (fever, cough, respiratory symptoms) in these categories:

• symptomatic healthcare workers and first responders
• other critical infrastructure workers
• immune-compromised
• those >65 years old
• patients with chronic diseases (like renal and pulmonary diseases, diabetes, hypertension)

Drive-through samples will be taken by a healthcare professional while the patient who remains in the car. Results are expected within 48 hours or less.

“As a federally qualified health center, we are here to serve the community. We have re-tooled our organization quickly through this crisis, with the goal of continuing to meet the needs of our patients. We started providing telemedicine visits, created a dedicated COVID stress warmline staffed with behavioral health therapists, and are continuing to provide emergency dental services. We recognized the gap in testing services and are happy to be able to step in to meet that need for the community. At this time of crisis, we are ready to be part of the community’s emergency response,” stated Heidi Britton, CEO Northwest Michigan Health Services.

Lisa Peacock, Health Officer for the Benzie Leelanau District Health Department shared, “We are very happy to see expanded capacity for testing and are pleased to work in partnership with NMHSI on this important project”

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