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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release
July 17th, 2020

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT – July 17, 2020

Mask up, Wash up, and Spread out

Governor Whitmer signed Executive Order 2020-147 on July 10th, 2020. New requirements from [Executive Order 2020-147](#):

- **Requires** any business that is open to the public to refuse entry or service to people who refuse to wear a face covering, with limited exceptions.
- **Requires** the use of face coverings in crowded outdoor spaces (crowded outdoor spaces are defined as any outdoor public spaces where you are unable to properly social distance yourself from others outside your household).

Between July 4 and July 15 there have been 16 young people between the ages of 15-23 linked to the Leland community who have tested positive for COVID-19. These individuals are all connected through work, family, and social gatherings and between them there are many close contacts (close to 100 known contacts) who have been exposed and potentially infected. Some are still some waiting for test results, and it is likely that there are others who not yet been tested or identified.

The number of positive infections and their contacts raises concern that the disease is spreading quickly and could eventually affect those most vulnerable. The community is advised to remember that many new cases are asymptomatic and may have already spread the illness by the time they are diagnosed and therefore caution is needed to protect those most vulnerable.

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department has been working to identify and isolate those who have COVID-19 or who have been exposed, but we need the community's assistance in stopping the spread by avoiding large social gatherings, practicing social distancing, wearing a mask when around non-household members, and frequent handwashing. If you have any signs of illness, even mild symptoms, stay home until you are well. Symptoms of COVID-19 may include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle aches, fatigue, sore throat, runny nose/congestion, diarrhea, nausea/vomiting, or loss of taste/smell. If you have questions, please email hotline@bldhd.org or call and leave a message at 231-882-2197.

This situation changes daily If you want the latest information, you can visit the Health Department Website (bldhd.org/coronavirus-covid-19) where we provide resources for businesses, and links to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC: cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS: Michigan.gov/coronavirus).