

2020



Annual Report

BENZIE-LEELANAU DISTRICT HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

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Letter from Medical Director and Health Officer

As you flip the pages of our 2020 Annual Report to our Community and reflect this challenging year, we hope you feel the same sense of immense pride that we do. This is where our collective character shines...with pride in a resilient community who through strong partnership and authentic collaboration will no doubt emerge from this difficult time even better on the other side.

It is impossible to share the full breadth of everything that happened in public health over the past year, we hope that these highlights will give you a sense of the dedication of our team of public health professionals who continue to strive for excellence each day in the work they do to meet the needs of our community on all levels – from a wide variety of individual and family services, broad community supports and education, and strong efforts to preserve our pristine environment.

2020 was a challenging and rewarding year and our staff took on new roles and pivoted to meet the ever-changing community needs. Like most businesses across the north, Michigan, and country, we also learned how to work remotely while still delivering our vital services to our communities. We are proud of the level of community collaboration we have experienced between schools, businesses, and all types of partners to keep our communities safe and healthy.

We are deeply grateful for the support of our Board of Health and of course, our team members whose tireless efforts have achieved a high and equitable level of wellness throughout northern Michigan.

To all, we say thank you!



Lisa Peacock, MSN, MPH, RN, WHNP-BC
Health Officer
Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department



Dr. Joshua Meyerson, MD, MPH, FAAP Board Certified in
Pediatrics
Medical Director
Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department



Dr. Joshua Meyerson, MD, MPH
Medical Director



Lisa Peacock, MSN, RN, WHNP-BC, MPH
Health Officer

Administration Team

Medical Director: Joshua Meyerson, MD, MPH

Health Officer: Lisa Peacock, MSN, RN, WHNP-BC, MPH

Personal Health Director: Michelle Klein, RN, MA, PH-C

Personal Health Supervisor: Debbie Aldridge, RN

Personal Health Supervisor: Autumn Jurek, RN IBCLC

Public Health Technician Supervisor: Kerry Turner MBA

Director of Administrative Services: Dodie Putney, BS

Environmental Health Director: Eric Johnston, RS

Board of Health

Chairperson: Gary Sauer

Vice Chairperson: Carolyn Rentenbach

Members:

Tony Ansorge

Dr. Mark Kuiper

Linda Farrell

Dr. Barbara Conley

Personal Health

PERSONAL HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

- Michelle Klein, Director of Personal Health was named the Outstanding Community Member of the year by the Leelanau County League of Women Voters for her many years of dedicated work in Leelanau County.
- Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department was awarded the Outstanding Agency of the Year Award by Benzie Human Services Collaborative.
- Implementation of new Electronic Medical Record program "Patagonia"
- Kerry Turner was promoted to Public Health Technician Supervisor.
- Autumn Jurek was promoted to Personal Health Supervisor and Parenting Communities Supervisor.
- Amanda Stowe was selected for the Northwest Michigan Alliance for Infant Mental Health (NW MI-AIMH) Award of Excellence.
- Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department was selected for the Census Outreach Grant from Grand Traverse Community Collaborative and Networks Northwest. The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department staff assisted residents with the census as well as several outreach activities to spread awareness.
 - Leelanau County's response rate increased 3.2% over the 2010 Census response rate.
 - Benzie County's response rate increased 5.8% over the 2010 Census response rate.

Personal Health

PERSONAL HEALTH PROGRAM NUMBERS

Immunizations:

1,102 Appointments and 1,658 immunizations Administered

Hearing Screening:

816 screenings completed

Vision Screening:

1,623 screenings completed

Infection Disease Control:

1663 Cases investigations conducted (1411 COVID-19 cases, 252 other diseases)

Healthy Futures:

121 Clients Enrolled and 107 Home Visits

Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP):

183 Mom and Infants Enrolled and 1,001 Visits

Reproductive Health:

95 Clients, 261 visits, and 6 BCCCP Visits

Worksite Wellness:

4 Worksite Wellness Sites

Women, Infant, and Children (WIC):

1,281 Clients enrolled, 72 Lead Test Completed, and 78 Fluoride Varnish Applied

Community Connections:

786 Referrals and 2,180 contacts

Children's Special Health Care Services:

131 Clients Served and 45 Plans of Care Completed

Personal Health

REPORTABLE COMMUNICABLE DISEASES 5-YEAR REPORT

Total Cases Investigated: 257

Disease	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Animal Bites	11	13	39	58	52
Animal Rabies (Bat)	0	1	3	1	0
Brucellosis	0	0	1	0	0
Campylobacter	3	3	7	5	2
Chickenpox	0	1	1	2	10
Chikungunya	0	0	0	0	1
Chlamydia	42	66	80	110	84
Coccidioidmycosis	0	1	0	1	1
Cryptosporidiosis	2	3	0	5	1
E. Coli	0	0	0	0	1
Ehrlichiosis Anaplasma Phagocytophillum	0	0	1	0	0
Giardiasis	0	2	4	5	3
Gonorrhea	6	7	7	2	3
Haemophilus Influenza	1	0	2	0	1
Hepatitis A	0	0	1	1	0
Hepatitis B	11	8	6	4	5
Hepatitis C	9	23	38	25	18
Histoplasmosis	0	0	2	2	0
Flu Like Disease (School Reports)	164	700	904	1053	841
Legionellosis	2	2	1	0	0
Lyme Disease	23	6	0	4	5
Meningitis-Aseptic	3	0	7	3	4
Meningitis-Bacterial	0	0	3	0	2
Meningitis-Strep Pneumo	6	0	3	1	6
Mycobacterium-NonTB	2	3	10	2	7
Mycobacterium-TB	1				
Novel Coronavirus-COVID 19	1409				
Pertussis	0	18	1	3	3
Rickettsial-Spotted Fever	0	0	1	0	0
Salmonellosis	6	6	2	8	7
Shigellosis	0	0	0	3	0
Streptococcal Disease, Grp A	1	2	0	3	1
Syphilis	3	1	2	1	0
Vibriosis	0	1	0	0	0
VZ infection	1	9	10	7	12

Parenting Communities

In March 2020, Parenting Communities of Leelanau County joined the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department. Leelanau County residents voted and approved the Early Childhood Services Millage proposal in November 2019.

As the COVID-19 pandemic started to prevent in-person gatherings, our Parenting Communities team adapted and assembled care packages for local families. These care packages included family group activities and games for families to learn and have fun together during this period of isolation.

During the summer, our Parenting Communities team was able to host outdoor playgroups like hiking and yoga events.

In June 2020, Hollie Anderson, BS, IMH-E, Parenting Communities' Community Health Worker, received the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health.



Autumn Jurek, RN, IBCLC assembling packages for Parenting Communities' families.



Parenting Communities yoga event playgroup held over the summer.



Hollie Anderson providing virtual home visit.

Environmental Health

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

- National Radon Month "Give a can, get a kit"
- Implementation of Cloud Based Laserfiche Document Manage System for Leelanau Property Records to improve public access to information.
- Safe Food, Safe Community Grant allowed for programming at local food pantries and other charitable organizations.
- Basic Food Safety class was held in Leelanau County.
- Two Food Service Management classes were held in Benzie and Leelanau County.
- The Environmental Health Team played a critical role in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Filled leadership roles such as Planning Section Chief and Logistic Section Chief
 - The Food Program Coordinator served as the restaurant liaison for the COVID-19 response.
 - The Environmental Health staff played a key role in COVID-19 testing for community partner Northwest Michigan Health Service Inc by providing logistics and planning support.
 - The staff investigated and if needed, addressing community and business concerns about COVID-19 Executive and Epidemic Orders.
 - Developed COVID-19 Executive/Emergency Order guidance documents (aka Toolkits) for food facilities, campgrounds, and other businesses.



Benzie's National Radon Month "Give a can, get a kit" collected food that was donated to Benzie Area Christian Neighbors



Clay McNitt and Marc Grossnickle working traffic control at Northwest Michigan Health Service Inc.'s COVID-19 testing site.

Environmental Health

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM NUMBERS

Restaurant Inspections: 388

Food License/temps: 61

Foodborne Illness Report Follow up: 5

Well Permits Issued: 312

Septic Permits Issued: 430

Vacant Land Evaluations: 130

Existing Well and Septic System Inspections: 396

Swimming Pool and Spas Inspections: 40

Swimming Beach Monitoring: 11

Campground Inspections: 27

Septage Hauling Vehicle Inspections: 21

Septage Receiving Facility Inspections: 10

Tattoo Parlor Inspections: 0

Suspected Rabies Animal Test Submissions: 14

Emergency Preparedness

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK RESPONSE

The Northern Michigan Public Health Emergency Preparedness (NMPHEP) team, consisting of Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department, Health Department of Northwest Michigan, and Grand Traverse County Health Department, was well prepared to respond to an emergency having spent the previous years in typical Emergency Preparedness fashion; writing and updating plans, making sure employees were trained in the National Incident Management System (NIMS), submitting state-issued deliverables, and planning Emergency Preparedness exercises.

In 2020, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department staff was prepared and activated the Incident Command Structure to respond to the oncoming threat in early March.

- In response to the COVID-19 response, several Personal Health staff members shifted into important leadership positions within the Incident Command Structure.
 - The Health Officer became the Incident Commander.
 - The Director of Personal Health became the Operational Chief.
 - The Personal Health Supervisor became the Safety Chief and Community Resource Agency Liaison.
 - Community Health Coordinator became the Public Information Officer.
 - Public Health Nurses served as Case Investigators, Contract Tracers, and School/Long-term Care Liaisons as well as developed and executed plans for vaccination and testing with the support of Public Health Technicians.

Emergency Preparedness

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK RESPONSE

Throughout 2020, preparedness had evolved to respond as the needs of the pandemic have evolved. It looks different day to day, depending on what the changing seasons bring and what our community needs.

Leelanau County's first Coronavirus case was reported on March 16, 2020. Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department staff quickly initiated case investigation and contact tracing to prevent spread to the community. Benzie County's first case was reported on April 18th, 2020. The staff continued this process with all confirmed and probable cases to reduce community spread.

The health department staff regularly released communication toolkits to provide guidance and resources for different sectors of businesses including restaurants, schools, campgrounds, and overnight camps. A new dashboard was developed and multiple written and verbal updates were regularly provided to the community.

Strengthened relationships with local partners and agencies, preparedness plans, training exercises, amazing community volunteers, and temporary staff as well as additional state and local resources all contributed to the protection of our community.



Team huddle before Community Testing Clinic at Benzie Central High School on June 21st, 2020



Community Testing Clinic at Suttons Bay School on June 20th, 2020



Community Testing Clinic at Suttons Bay School on June 20th, 2020

Emergency Preparedness

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK RESPONSE

In response to local youth and parents who were concerned about an increase in cases among youth in Leelanau County, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department staff assembled a task force to provide outreach efforts to the youth population. The task force included seven volunteers from three local high schools in Benzie and Leelanau County.

The volunteers researched slogans and discussed ideas for the Teen Team Covid-19 Prevention Communications Campaign. After creating their plan, the team designed posters and flyers to present to staff from the health department.

After approval by the health department, the volunteers and health department staff distributed these materials in various communities within Leelanau and Benzie County.



Outreach Flyers and Public Health Advisory for the Teen Outreach Campaign.

Financial Report

