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## PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

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**For Immediate Release**

**October 7, 2021**

### **Case trend summary highlights importance of vaccination, mask wearing**

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department has developed a new document to share data trends among COVID-19 cases, including highly requested information regarding age distribution, hospitalizations, and vaccination status.

From August 30-October 3, the key data points - for information collected from cases in Benzie and Leelanau Counties - as evidenced in the [summary](#) include:

- Increasing cases: COVID-19 cases continue to rise, more than doubling in numbers since Aug. 30-Sept. 12.
- Hospitalization: 15 people were hospitalized as a result of contracting COVID.
- Vaccination status: The majority of cases were not vaccinated at the time of this report summary. Due to the small number of cases, this percentage of vaccinated and unvaccinated does not reflect an accurate image of those diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Breakthrough cases: The number of breakthrough cases remains low. Since January 2021, the percentage of breakthrough cases is 0.46% (\*Based on currently available data).
  - Breakthrough case is defined as the detection of SARS-CoV2 RNA or antigen in a respiratory specimen collected from a person who is equal to or greater than 14 days after completing all recommended doses of a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-authorized COVID-19 vaccine.
- School-age cases: While the health department continues to report cases among K-12 students, this number remains low. However, the number of cases among school-age students has increased since school started.

“As we look at the data, we see some key trends,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “First, cases continue to rise in our jurisdiction. Secondly, among cases reported, the vast majority were not vaccinated. We are also seeing more people hospitalized, which is putting a stress on our health care system, resulting in increased pressure on limited hospital and emergency services personnel and resources, and limiting availability of ICU beds for non-COVID emergent care,” she added.

“We all want to see a return to ‘normalcy,’” Peacock stressed, “but to do so we need to increase our vaccination numbers and reduce the spread of COVID-19 among all our age populations. We created this weekly case trend summary to help our communities understand the significance of this pandemic among all age groups and how the unvaccinated are more likely to experience illness and hospitalization,” she said.

Vaccination is our most powerful tool. The health department offers convenient COVID-19 vaccination clinics for all area residents and visitors 12 and older by appointment ahead of time. Parent consent is required for minors. Anyone may call the Michigan COVID-19 hotline at 888-535-6136 if they have questions or are not able to find a time or date that works for them and/or their child. Clinics offer client choice of Pfizer, Moderna, or J&J’s Janssen unless otherwise noted. Upcoming clinics for appointments only include:

#### **Tuesday, October 12th**

- Suttons Bay Middle School Gymnasium, 310 S. Elm Street, Suttons Bay, MI 49682
- Time: 1:00-5:00pm
- Vaccine: Moderna, Janssen, and Pfizer (open to 12 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
- To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

### **Wednesday, October 13th**

- Crystal Cafe, 1681 Benzie Hwy, Benzonia, MI 49616
- Time: 1:00- 5:00pm
- Vaccine: Moderna, Janssen, and Pfizer (open to 12 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
- To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

### **COVID-19 Testing**

The health department is offering free COVID-19 testing with the support of HONU lab. The test is free, and no doctor's order is required. Pre-registration is not required, but it is recommended to reduce time spent at the testing clinic, and walk-ins are welcome. Testing is available:

- On Monday and Thursday from 10 - 3pm at the Suttons Bay Old Middle School.  
To register visit: <http://honumg.info/OldSuttonsBayMS>
- On Tuesday and Friday, from 10 am – 3pm at the Crystal Café in Benzonia.  
To register visit: <https://honumg.info/CrystalCafe>

### **COVID-19 Case Counts**

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting the following case information:

- On Tuesday, October 5, 15 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (4), and Leelanau (11).
- On Wednesday, October 6, 25 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (15), and Leelanau (10).
- Today, October 7, 6 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (3) and Leelanau (3).

As of 4:00 p.m. today, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting:

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,512, Leelanau– 1,561
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 154, Leelanau– 155
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,324, Leelanau– 1,386
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 34, Leelanau– 20
- Hospitalized: 191 total; 3 currently

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