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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

January 5, 2021

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

Today there were seven new cases of COVID-19 reported in Benzie County and nine new cases of COVID-19 reported in Leelanau County. One new COVID-19 associated death in Benzie County was reported today of a male resident in his 80's.

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department will be releasing COVID-19 vaccine updates that will be emailed out weekly to update the community about the COVID-19 vaccine progress. There will be a link on our website that will allow residents and businesses to subscribe to the email blast. We at the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department want to make getting COVID-19 vaccine updates easy and simple.

We have been receiving an influx of questions and calls related to our COVID-19 vaccination administration status for adults 75 and older in Phase 1B. We understand our community members are eager to know when they can anticipate receiving their vaccine and want more information on the process, we are currently working closely with community partners such as the Area Agency on Aging and others who provide services to seniors as well as Community Connections and hospital partners to create effective processes for vaccine distribution for our most vulnerable residents. We know that safety is of great concern to everyone and vaccinating large numbers of people can be challenging when trying to reach this population, but we are working hard to ensure that we have effective strategies to reach older adults. We are currently working on adapting our process for pre-registration for individuals in this age group to ensure a smooth process for scheduling. At this time, we are still asking healthcare workers and any individuals in Phase 1A to complete the [COVID-19 Vaccination Information Form](#) so that we can get their appointments scheduled.

"There are several exciting things happening right now and we are working on our public health messaging to quickly notify the community. We are still working on vaccinating Phase 1A, while simultaneously planning for the next priority groups and will notify the community when we move to our next phase," stated Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. "We will continue to provide regular updates through press releases, individuals can also monitor our COVID-19 Vaccination webpage and our Facebook."

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 704, Leelanau– 665
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 163, Leelanau– 155
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 513, Leelanau– 502
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 28, Leelanau– 8
- Hospitalized: 97 total; 7 current

The State of Michigan has reported 504,410 cases and 12,867 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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