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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release August 16, 2021

School COVID-19 vaccine clinics; Guidance provided on booster shot for immunocompromised individuals

The health department is working with school districts throughout Benzie and Leelanau counties to offer vaccine clinics at area schools. The COVID-19 vaccine, as well as other recommended and required teen vaccines, will be available. These clinics are open to students, their family members, and school staff.

- Leland Public School
 - Monday, August 23rd, from 3pm-6pm
 - Appointments are required.
- Suttons Bay Public School
 - Tuesday, August 24th, from 3pm-6pm
 - Appointments are required.
- Glen Lake Community School
 - Thursday, September 2nd, from 3pm-6pm
 - Appointments are required.
- Northport Public School
 - o Thursday, September 16th, from 3pm-6pm
 - Appointments are required.

To schedule a school-based appointment, call the health department at 231-256-0200 or contact your student's school.

As students are also returning to college or university campuses soon, the health department welcomes them to any vaccination clinics in the area. Students and their parents should contact their college/university to learn more about COVID-19 precautions and other vaccination requirements for the fall semester. The Pfizer vaccine is available for anyone 12 and older (with parent/guardian permission) and the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccine brands are available for anyone 18 and older.

"The Delta variant is more contagious and by the time it has been identified, an infected individual(s) may have already exposed many more people," said Dr. Joshua Meyerson, Medical Director. "Vaccination is more important than ever. The COVID-19 vaccines show effectiveness against variants and reduce the risk of serious illness that leads to hospitalization or death."

On Friday, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) modified the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to allow for the administration of an additional dose (i.e., third dose) of an mRNA COVID-19 (Pfizer or Moderna) vaccine after receiving the 2-dose primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series. An additional dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine after an initial 2-dose primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series should be considered for people who are moderate to severely immunocompromised due to a medical condition or receipt of immunosuppressive medications or treatments. These conditions and treatments include but are not limited to: Active treatment for solid tumor and hematologic malignancies; receipt of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy; bone marrow or stem cell transplants; moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency; advanced or untreated HIV infection; and active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (i.e., ≥20mg prednisone or equivalent per day), alkylating agents, antimetabolites, transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapeutic agents classified as severely immunomodulatory.

Additional information about Clinical Guidance for Michigan Providers Regarding Additional Dose of an mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine can be found <u>here.</u>

The Health Department is requesting that persons seeking an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer for 12 and older or Moderna for 18 and older) provide a note or prescription from their physician for the dose based on having a moderate to severe immunocompromising condition as <u>described by the CDC</u>. "We urge individuals to discuss their condition with their physician and determine what is best for them," Dr. Meyerson said.

We have extended our clinic hours this week to accommodate increased demand related to these changes. Everyone is welcome at all health department clinics, including residents and non-residents. All three COVID-19 vaccines are available at every clinic. Minors must be accompanied by a parent/legal guardian. Public health nurses are on-site at these events and able to answer any questions about the vaccines. All clinics are open to walk-ins, or an appointment can be scheduled by clicking on the clinic link below:

Tuesday, August 17th

- Suttons Bay Middle School Gymnasium, 310 S. Elm Street, Suttons Bay, MI 49682
- Time: 10:00-2:00pm
- Vaccine: Moderna, Janssen, and Pfizer (open to 12 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
- To schedule an appointment: Click Here

Wednesday, August 18th

- Crystal Cafe, 1681 Benzie Hwy, Benzonia, MI 49616
- Time: 2:00- 6:00pm
- Vaccine: Moderna, Janssen, and Pfizer (open to 12 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
- To schedule an appointment: Click Here

COVID-19 Case Counts

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

- On Friday, August 13, 3 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (0), and Leelanau (3).
- On Saturday, August 14, 4 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (1), and Leelanau (3).
- On Sunday, August 15, 1 new case of COVID-19 was reported in Benzie (0), and Leelanau (1).
- Today, August 16, 10 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (3) and Leelanau (7).

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,292, Leelanau– 1,316
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie- 28, Leelanau- 48
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie- 1,230, Leelanau- 1,252
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie 34, Leelanau 16
- Hospitalized: 171 total; 2 currently

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