PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

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For Immediate Release
November 8, 2021

Parents: vaccination for children 'good for them and for the community good'

Parents concerned about the health and well-being of their children and family – and the community-at-large – are registering their child for COVID-19 vaccination clinics offered by the providers across the region.

Appointments for 5-11 year olds through the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department are available, said Dr. Josh Meyerson, Pediatrician and Medical Director for the health department. In addition to the health department, parents should also check with local pharmacies and their family doctor or pediatrician for availability of the COVID-19 vaccine. "I am pleased with the positive response we are seeing from parents and guardians who are looking to not only protect their child and family from COVID-19 but also the greater community," Dr. Meyerson said. "All the research that has taken place shows this vaccine is both safe and effective - whether you're 5 years old or 95 years old. Our region is still at a high transmission level and the best way to reduce this spread and return to the normalcy we all seek is to get vaccinated," he added.

According to health department officials, the region is reporting a high level of COVID-19 case transmissions with school-age cases a large percentage of reported cases.

Although children are at a lower risk of becoming severely ill with COVID-19 compared with adults, children can:

- Be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19
- Get very sick from COVID-19
- Have both short and long-term health complications from COVID-19
- Spread COVID-19 to others

Getting vaccinated is the best way to stop the spread of COVID-19 in schools and the community. The Health Department is hosting clinics especially geared toward children 5 to 11 years old. These separate clinics will accommodate children in numerous ways, including allowing parents to comfort their child by having them sit on their laps and be more intimate, and smaller than clinics held for adults.

A parent/guardian must accompany anyone younger than 18 to a COVID-19 clinic. Please bring an insurance card to the appointment.

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department has created an electronic self-reporting survey to make it easy and convenient for residents testing at home to report positive COVID-19 tests. The health department recently created documents listing COVID-19 testing sites and vaccination clinics in Benzie and Leelanau counties. Residents are urged to check the individual clinic sites listed for vaccine availability.

Vaccination continues to be 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 clients a choice of Pfizer, Moderna, or J&J's Janssen unless otherwise noted. Upcoming clinics for appointments only include

Tuesday, November 9th – Community COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic
- VFW Post 7731, 7475 E Duck Lake Rd, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653
- 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, November 10th – Community COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic
- 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

Friday, November 12th- Benzie's Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic
- BLDHD Benzie Office, 6501 Frankfort Hwy, Benzonia, MI 49616
- Time: 8:00-12:00 and 1- 4:30pm
- Vaccine: Pfizer (open to 5-11 years old ONLY, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
- To schedule an appointment: Click Here

Friday, November 12th- Leelanau's Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic
- BLDHD Leelanau Office, 7401 E Duck Lake Rd, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653
- Time: 8:00-12:00 and 1- 4:30pm
- Vaccine: Pfizer (open to 5-11 years old ONLY, 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 VFW Post 7731. 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 Friday, November 5, 38 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (20), and Leelanau (18).
- On Saturday, November 6, 16 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (8), and Leelanau (8).
- On Sunday, November 7, 11 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (5) and Leelanau (6).
- Today, November 8, 24 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (8) and Leelanau (16).

As of 4:00 p.m. today, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting:
- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,738, Leelanau– 1,779
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 178, Leelanau– 188
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,525, Leelanau– 1,570
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 34, Leelanau– 21
- Hospitalized: 213 total; 8 currently

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