



Benzie County Office
6051 Frankfort Hwy, Ste 100
Benzonia, MI 49616

Phone: 231-882-4409
Fax: 231-882-0143

www.bldhd.org

Leelanau County Office
7401 E. Duck Lake Rd
Lake Leelanau, MI 49653

Phone: 231-256-0200
Fax: 231-882-0143

For Immediate Release
8/6/2021

Delta variant identified in Leelanau County

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) State Laboratory has notified the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department of the first identified case of the Delta (B.1.617.2.) variant in Leelanau County. The Delta Variant was identified through routine lab surveillance of testing samples.

The Delta variant – a much more transmissible strain of COVID-19 – is quickly becoming prevalent in the United States. Only a small percentage of COVID-19 positive test samples are sent on for genetic sequencing to identify any variant strains. Therefore, it is likely there are more unidentified cases of the delta variant across the northern Michigan region. Since August 1, there have been 15 new cases reported in Leelanau County alone which has placed it in the CDC “substantial” level of transmission.

“The most powerful tool we have against further spread and mutation of the virus is the vaccination. We are urging those who are not yet vaccinated to get the shot and asking everyone to take extra precautions to prevent the strain from rapidly spreading across our communities,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer for the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department.

Continue practicing mitigation strategies to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 and variants, including Delta. These strategies include:

- Getting the COVID-19 vaccine
- Wearing a mask around others in crowded indoor or outdoor areas, especially in counties with substantial and high community transmission, regardless of vaccination status
- Staying six feet apart from others
- Washing hands often
- Staying home when you feel ill. Get tested if you have symptoms
- Ventilating indoor spaces
- Get a COVID test if you have been exposed to someone who has tested positive 3-5 days after exposure

Persons with symptoms are encouraged to get tested promptly, isolate from others until test results are known, and those exposed should quarantine promptly even if they are not ill.

“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, DHD4 Medical Director. Meyerson continued, “Vaccination is more important than ever. The COVID-19 vaccines show effectiveness against variants and reduce the risk of serious illness that lead to hospitalization or death.”

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 10th

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

Wednesday, August 11th

- Crystal Cafe, 1681 Benzie Hwy, Benzonia, MI 49616
- Time: 4:00- 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 Tuesday, August 3, 2 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (0), and Leelanau (2).
- On Wednesday, August 4, 3 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (0), and Leelanau (3).
- On Thursday, August 5, 4 new case of COVID-19 was reported in Benzie (1) and Leelanau (3).

As of 4:00 p.m. today, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting (as of 8/5/2021):

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,273, Leelanau– 1,295
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 13, Leelanau– 31
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,226, Leelanau– 1,248
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 34, Leelanau– 16
- Hospitalized: 165 total; 1 currently