



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

Phone: 231-882-4409

Fax: 231-882-0143

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

Phone: 231-256-0200

www.bldhd.org

COVID UPDATE September 16, 2021

Changes in Quarantine Guidance for Students and Others

Last week the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) [issued updated quarantine guidance](#) for schools. Our local schools have been working alongside the health department to answer questions related to this updated guidance, and the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department has extended the updated quarantine requirements to all community members.

An individual who is a close contact* to someone with COVID-19 and is not vaccinated may return to work/school on the 8th day** from the exposure date as long as all of the three following conditions are met:

- 1) The exposed individual does not have any symptoms, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, muscle aches, runny nose/congestions, or nausea/diarrhea.
- 2) The exposed individual has a negative COVID-19 test on day 6 or after, before entering the school building or work site.
- 3) The school/employer accepts the 7 day/negative test quarantine option instead of the 10-day quarantine.

*Close Contact is defined as closer than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period. In a school setting, if both the exposed individual and the positive case are wearing masks, the close contact is defined as anyone closer than 3 feet for more than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period.

**Example: Exposed on 9/1/2021. First day of quarantine is 9/2/2021. Test can be done on 9/7 at the earliest. If negative, can return to work/school on 9/9/2021.

*Individuals who are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine if exposed to COVID-19.

Testing for COVID-19 is available at many local physician offices, pharmacies and urgent cares; through health department sponsored walk-in, free testing opportunities (see below); and with home tests that are available at many pharmacies. Each school or employer may determine what is considered acceptable proof of a negative test.

While this new quarantine guidance offers employers and schools options to reduce the time individuals are out of work or school, there is still a risk that symptoms and infectiousness may develop after day 7 from exposure. Michelle Klein, Director of Personal Health at the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department says, "While the risk of missing an infection is lower after one week from exposure, there is still a risk. We recommend that exposed contacts wear a mask when around others, avoid close contact with those who are at high risk of severe disease, and diligently monitor for symptoms for 14 days after exposure".

Booster Doses of Vaccine: The health department is receiving many inquiries related to booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine. At this time, booster doses for individuals other than those who have a diagnosed immunocompromising condition or are on an immunosuppressing medication have not been approved. If booster doses for other segments of the population are approved, the health department will notify the public through all media outlets with information about scheduling those appointments.

COVID 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:

- Mondays, 10-3: Suttons Bay Old Middle School, 310 Elm, Suttons Bay (North drive/entrance)
- Tuesdays, 10-3, Crystal Café, 1681 Benzie Hwy, Benzonia
- Thursdays, 12-6: Suttons Bay Old Middle School, 310 Elm (North drive/entrance)
- Fridays, 10-3: Crystal Café, 1681 Benzie Hwy, Benzonia

To register for testing at the Suttons Bay Site visit: <http://honumg.info/OldSuttonsBayMS>

To register for testing at the Crystal Café/Benzonia site visit: <https://honumg.info/CrystalCafe>

COVID Vaccine

Vaccination is our most powerful tool. 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:

Tuesdays

- Suttons Bay Middle School Gymnasium, 310 S. Elm Street, Suttons Bay, MI 49682
- 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](#)

Wednesdays

- 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:

Note: Our usual "numbers" person is taking much deserved time off and we have identified some errors in numbers reported earlier this week as new staff are working to cover this reporting function. We apologize for any discrepancies and are working to correct these errors. Total numbers of cases, active cases, recovered, and hospitalized reporting and the dashboard on our website will be updated at a later date.

Below are correct new case numbers for September 3-September 14.

Date	Benzie New Cases	Leelanau New Cases	Total
9/03/2021	2	6	8
9/4/2021	3	2	5
9/5/2021	0	0	0
9/6/2021	0	1	1
9/7/2021	11	7	18
9/8/2021	4	3	7
9/9/2021	5	9	14
9/10/2021	3	5	8
9/11/2021	1	2	3
9/12/2021	2	0	2
9/13/2021	3	6	9
9/14/2021	7	5	12