



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

PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

November 24, 2021

Personal responsibility key to stopping spread of COVID-19

As we enter the holiday season, Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department officials are warning residents of the current high level of COVID-19 transmission in the community.

“As people begin to gather indoors with family, friends, and others, we anticipate seeing an increase in cases, with hospitalizations and severe illnesses to follow,” said Health Officer Lisa Peacock. Health Department staff are urging everyone to take seriously the spread of COVID-19 and its lasting effect on individuals, school systems, businesses, and the community-at-large.

COVID-19 test positivity is high and the rate of new cases is on pace to meet or exceed any previous high. Currently, Michigan has one of the highest rates in the nation of new cases per population for the past seven days.

On November 19, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services issued a Public Health Advisory for everyone to mask indoors when around people who are not from the same household. This is essentially an amplification of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendation for indoor masking in all public places that has been in place since early August.

Current case trends in the health department’s jurisdiction of Benzie and Leelanau counties continue to be on the rise. As of November 23, as reported in the [MI Safe Start Map](#):

- Percent positivity from November 16-22. *This is the number of positive PCR tests over the last 7 days divided by the total number of PCR tests over the last 7 days:*
 - Benzie– 19.8%
 - Leelanau– 17.8%
- Weekly new cases per 100,000 people from November 16-22. *This number represents the new COVID infections per week in a particular county. To adjust for population “per 100,000 people” is used.*
 - Benzie– 759.9
 - Leelanau– 602

“It’s about personal responsibility which is key in fighting this pandemic and protecting our community,” Peacock stated. “It will take everyone - working together - to protect those who cannot be vaccinated or who are at greater risk of serious illness or death.”

Personal responsibility includes:

- Getting vaccinated. If unvaccinated, speak with your healthcare provider about the benefits of vaccination. The vaccine is free, safe, effective, and available at multiple locations throughout the region. Vaccines are now available for children ages five and older. Boosters are available for those 18 and older.
- Wearing a mask indoors, at work, school and anywhere in public when gathered around other people, even if vaccinated.
- Staying home when sick or not feeling well.
- Getting tested if having symptoms, even minor symptoms, or if exposed to someone with COVID. Do not spend time with others outside of your household while awaiting test results. Also seek testing prior to attending indoor gatherings.

For a list of vaccine providers and locations in Benzie and Leelanau counties, click [here](#). To schedule an appointment with the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department exclusively for children 5 to 11 years old, call 231-882-4409. To schedule an appointment with the health department for anyone 12 and older, [click here](#). A parent/guardian must accompany anyone younger than 18 to a COVID-19 clinic. Please bring an insurance card to the appointment.

To find a test site in the area, [click here](#).

Media Contact:

Rachel Pomeroy, PIO

231-882-6085

RPomeroy@bldhd.org

###