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## PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

**For Immediate Release**  
**December 13, 2021**

### **Pfizer booster shot now available for anyone 16+**

Following CDC approval, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is urging anyone 16 and older to get the Pfizer booster vaccine 6 months after receiving their two primary COVID-19 vaccines. Currently, Pfizer is the only authorized vaccine for under age 18. A parent/guardian must accompany a minor to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

“Getting vaccinated is how we can continue to protect ourselves further from COVID-19 spread and work our way out of this pandemic,” said Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director with the Health Department. “This is great news that the Pfizer vaccine booster is available for anyone 16 and older. I urge anyone 5 and up to get vaccinated, and those 16 and up to receive their booster as soon as they’re eligible – at least 6 months after completing their primary series.”

The COVID-19 Pfizer booster dose may be given with other vaccines, including the flu vaccine, at the same time.

[As previously recommended](#), those with moderately to severely compromised immune systems should receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 28 days after a second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. This additional dose is intended to improve the response of people who are immunocompromised to their initial vaccine series.

Flu and COVID-19 vaccinations – including booster shots – are widely available at pharmacies, health care providers, and health department clinics. For a list of vaccine providers and locations in Benzie and Leelanau counties, click [here](#). To schedule a flu vaccine, call the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department at 231-256-0200.

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. 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, December 14th – THERE WILL BE NO COMMUNITY COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINIC AS THE LOCATION IS NOT AVAILABLE.**

- VFW Post 7731, 7475 E Duck Lake Rd, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653
- Time: No Clinic on the 14th
- Vaccine: Moderna, Janssen, and Pfizer (open to 12 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
- To schedule an appointment for next year: [Click Here](#)

**Wednesday, December 15th – Community COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic**

- Crystal Cafe, 1681 Benzie Hwy, Benzonia, MI 49616
- Time: 12:00- 5:00pm
- Vaccine: Moderna, Janssen, and Pfizer (open to 12 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
- To schedule an appointment: [Click here](#)
- Starting January 5th, 2022, BLDHD’s Community COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic in Benzie County will be held at Platte River Association in Honor, MI. All planned COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic in December will be held at Crystal Café.

## **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:

- No testing clinic on Thursday this week at the VFW Post 7731.
- On Tuesday and Friday from 10 am – 3pm at the Crystal Café in Benzonia. To register visit: <https://honumg.info/CrystalCafe>

**No testing clinic in Leelanau County on Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.**

## **COVID-19 Case Counts**

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

- On Friday, December 10, 30 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (17) and Leelanau (13), and two new COVID-19 associated deaths in Benzie County (1) and Leelanau County (1).
- On Saturday, December 11, 20 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (8) and Leelanau (12), and one new COVID-19 associated death in Benzie County.
- On Sunday, December 12, 7 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (4) and Leelanau (3), and one new COVID-19 associated death in Benzie County.
- Today, December 13, 17 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (9) and Leelanau (8), and one new COVID-19 associated death in Leelanau County.

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 2,253, Leelanau– 2,376
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 346, Leelanau– 421
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,864, Leelanau– 1,922
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 43, Leelanau– 33
- Hospitalized: 273 total; 14 currently

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