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## PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

**For Immediate Release**  
**December 6, 2021**

### Health Department: Reminders for safe and healthy workplace

The health department is reminding residents, local business owners and employees, and visitors to take responsibility and slow the spread of COVID-19 after notification of Omicron variant detected in the U.S. and the holidays approaching.

Residents, businesses owners and their employees can take the following steps to ensure a healthy community and workforce throughout the holiday season:

- **Stay home and get tested if you are sick.** If you have any symptoms of COVID-19, or have flu-like symptoms, it is important to stay home to prevent spreading any illness to those around you.
  - Testing locations throughout the four-county jurisdiction of Benzie and Leelanau can be found here [COVID-19 Testing List](#).
  - Community testing events in partnership with Honu Management Group are available on Mondays and Thursdays in Lake Leelanau and Tuesdays and Fridays in Benzonia. More details can be found by visiting: [www.bldhd.org](http://www.bldhd.org)
- **Notify close contacts of exposure if positive for COVID-19.** The health department is being notified of a large volume of positive tests each day and we may not be able to speak with each person in a timely way. If you test positive:
  - Please fill out the electronic survey we send by text or email,
  - **Isolate yourself at home for 10 days** and
  - Notify your close contacts. Slowing the spread of the virus can be achieved if close contacts are informed of their exposure, understand the need to quarantine for 10 days, monitor for ANY symptoms, and get tested.

See [if you test positive for COVID-19](#) for additional steps to help stop the spread because with the increase in COVID-19 cases in our area, you may not hear from the health department right away.

- **Take preventative measures** including
  - Physically distance from others and avoid crowds when possible
  - Seek testing after gatherings or travel
  - Wash hands frequently with soap and water and clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub
  - Wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose while indoors around others not from your household

Dr. Meyerson stressed that the Delta variant is still the most dominant strain of COVID-19 spreading, although the Omicron variant has been detected in numerous states so far. Both variants are cause for concern, Dr. Meyerson said, and the best way to protect yourself, your family and your loved ones is to get vaccinated – and that includes getting your booster shot, too.

“Getting your booster shot is just as important as getting your first or second COVID vaccination,” said Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director for the Health Department. “Anyone 18 and older who received their last shot six months

after completing their primary vaccination series (for Pfizer or Moderna) or two months after receiving their J&J vaccination, is eligible for a booster vaccination,” he said.

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 7th – Community COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic**

- VFW Post 7731, 7475 E Duck Lake Rd, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653
- 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](#)

#### **Wednesday, December 8th – 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.

#### **Friday, December 10th- Benzie’s Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic**

- BLDHD Benzie Office, 6051 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, December 10th- 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: <https://honu.dxresults.com/AntigenSignup?LabId=2470>
- On Tuesday and Friday from 10 am – 3pm at the Crystal Café in Benzonia. To register visit: <https://honumg.info/CrystalCafe>

**No testing clinics in Leelanau County on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> and 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 3, 43 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (14) and Leelanau (29).
- On Saturday, December 4, 32 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (14) and Leelanau (18), and one new COVID-19 associated death in Leelanau County.
- On Sunday, December 5, 8 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (2) and Leelanau (6).
- Today, December 6, 19 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (8) and Leelanau (11).

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 2,167, Leelanau– 2,278
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 402, Leelanau– 429
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,725, Leelanau– 1,819
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 40, Leelanau– 30
- Hospitalized: 261 total; 17 currently

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