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## PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

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**For Immediate Release**

**April 3, 2020**

### **The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update**

As of 2pm, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting no new positive COVID-19 cases in the Benzie and Leelanau. The Health Department has recorded 72 individuals tested with 24 pending results. Total positive cases- One Leelanau County. The State of Michigan has reported 12,744 cases and 479 deaths.

In effort to slow the spread of the COVID-19, The White House is formalizing new guidance for Americans wearing face coverings like homemade masks or bandanas but are urging everyone to ensure healthcare workers and first responders are prioritized when it comes to surgical and N95 masks. You can learn more about the [Difference](#) between surgical mask and N95 masks.

Yesterday, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) issued an emergency order that setting fines at \$1,000 for not complying with executive orders banning gatherings and non-essential businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is critical that all people continue to follow the stay home order well as other orders issued by the governor to protect the health and safety of all residents. Here is the [Full Press Release](#)

We want to share with the public the importance of a critical public health activity that often happens 'behind-the-scenes' is the work of contact tracing. When an individual tests positive for COVID-19, our communicable disease team begins contact tracing. They work with the individual to identify any potential exposures for that person, starting 48 hours before symptom onset. Then, the contact tracing team reaches out to each of those individuals who had significant exposure to the case to make them aware of the exposure, talk through quarantine, and the process of monitoring symptoms daily. While we have had only one confirmed case in our jurisdiction, we have investigated and are monitoring many other individuals with exposure or potential exposures in other locations.

Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director, wishes to commend the effort of this contact tracing team sharing, "This important work is a critical defense against spread of COVID-19 in the community. It helps us quickly identify those who might be at risk for exposure and allows us to implement proper isolation and quarantine as well as provide important health information"

Additional and updated information can be found on our [Website](#) and [Facebook](#) or by calling our public information line 231-882-2197. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has a statewide hotline for COVID-19. Public health and other experts will answer health-related questions about COVID-19. The hotline will be open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1-888-535-6136.

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