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## PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

**For Immediate Release**  
**January 10, 2022**

### **Booster shots timeline shortened Omicron variant detected in Leelanau County**

The FDA recently shortened the time between the completion of a primary series of the Moderna vaccines for anyone 18 and older and the Pfizer vaccine for anyone 12 and older can receive their booster shot to five months. The move comes as the country is in the middle of a surge of the highly contagious Omicron variant, which spreads more rapidly than the original SARS-CoV2 virus and other variants that have emerged.

Today, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) notified the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department that the Omicron variant of COVID-19 has been identified in one Leelanau County resident. The resident was tested on December 28, 2021. Determining which variant is present in an individual's test sample requires genetic sequencing, which is only conducted on a percentage of positive tests and can often take a few weeks. Health Department officials anticipate there are many more cases of Omicron present in our jurisdiction.

"Vaccination is the best defense against COVID-19 and its variants so shortening the length of time between completion of the primary series and the booster dose for both Pfizer and Moderna is very helpful in our quest to stay safe and healthy," said Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director for the Health Department. "I encourage everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated and also get their booster shot, which is very important to receive due to the omicron variant," Dr. Meyerson added.

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration created a graphic, ["Do I qualify for a COVID-19 vaccine booster and which one?"](#) to illustrate booster eligibility.

Omicron is known to be more transmissible than previous variants. To protect yourself, get vaccinated and get your booster shot, correctly and consistently wear a mask, get tested, and stay home if you have any symptoms. While symptoms related to the Omicron variant may be mild, symptoms to watch for include runny nose/congestion, fever or chills, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, new loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.

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. Walk-ins are welcome at the health department's community clinics. 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, January 11th – Community COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic.**

- VFW Post 7731, 7475 E Duck Lake Rd, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653
- Time: 12:00-5:00pm
- To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

#### **Wednesday, January 12th – Community COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic.**

- Platte River Association, 12990 Honor Hwy, Honor, MI 49640.
- Time: 12:00-5:00pm
- To schedule an appointment: [Click here](#)

### **Wednesday, January 12th- Leelanau's Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic**

- BLDHD Leelanau Office, 7401 E. Duck Lake Road, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653
- Time: 8:00-12:00 and 1- 4:30pm
- Appointments required
- Vaccine: Pfizer (open to 5-11 years old ONLY, parent/guardian must accompany minor)

### **Thursday, January 13th- 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
- Appointments required
- Vaccine: Pfizer (open to 5-11 years old ONLY, parent/guardian must accompany minor)

The Disability Network is working with Honu Management Company to provide vaccinations for homebound/disabled individuals who cannot go to a vaccine site. Individuals seeking this service are to contact Lorna Teng at Disability Network: 231-922-0903, extension 1, or email [lteng@disabilitynetwork.net](mailto:lteng@disabilitynetwork.net).

### **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 will be available as follows:

- Mondays and Thursdays, 10:00-3:00, VFW Post 7731, 7475 E Duck Lake Rd, Lake Leelanau, MI. To register for testing in Leelanau, [click here](#).
- Tuesdays and Fridays, 10:00-3:00, Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital, 224 Park Ave, Frankfort, MI 49635. The testing clinic is located in the trailer by the cardiac rehab entrance (lower-level parking lot). To register for testing in Benzie, [click here](#).

### **COVID-19 Case Counts**

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

- On Friday, January 7, 67 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (34) and Leelanau (31).
- On Saturday, January 8, 73 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (23) and Leelanau (50).
- On Sunday, January 9, 27 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (15) and Leelanau (12).
- Today, January 10, 10 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (5) and Leelanau (5).

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie- 2,574, Leelanau- 2,785
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie- 288, Leelanau- 377
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie- 2,236, Leelanau- 2,372
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie - 50, Leelanau- 36
- Hospitalized: 297 total; 9 currently

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