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## PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

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**For Immediate Release**

**January 6, 2022**

### **Health Department continues to encourage masks as source control with cases increasing and new variants emerging**

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department to date has not yet been notified of the presence of Omicron in its two-county jurisdiction of Benzie and Leelanau counties.

Although not yet detected in the jurisdiction, Omicron is known to be more transmissible than previous variants. To identify a specific variant a very small percentage of positive COVID-19 tests are randomly selected for sequencing, which takes time to process. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has indicated that rapidly increasing numbers of Omicron cases being identified in other areas of the state and the current pattern of transmission likely indicate that it is present even where it hasn't been identified yet. With a recent uptick in COVID-19 cases in the jurisdiction the health department is providing area residents with resources and guidance should they learn of exposure or test positive.

Lisa Peacock, Health Officer for the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department, is reiterating to residents that, "regardless of variant, if COVID positive or exposed, the protective measures are the same – correct and consistent masking, getting tested, and staying home when symptomatic or while waiting for test results. ”

The [new guidance document](#) was created to support area residents who have tested positive for COVID-19 or been exposed to a confirmed case to understand quarantine and isolation timelines. It is becoming more evident that a person with COVID-19 is most contagious in the 2 days prior and 3 days following symptom onset therefore it is imperative that everyone understand the steps they need to take to keep themselves and those around them safe. While CDC and MDHHS guidelines for isolation and quarantine have changed, masking recommendations from health officials remain the same – correct and consistent masking in public settings regardless of vaccination status.

“It is important to recognize universal masking in public settings as a method of source control. When masks are worn correctly the risk of spreading COVID-19 to others is reduced. We continue to see an increased risk of spread from asymptomatic, pre-symptomatic cases and those with mild early symptoms onset which supports our recommendations for continued protective measures when in public settings,” Peacock added.

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 is available:

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 Tuesday, January 4, 82 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (31) and Leelanau (51), and one new COVID-19 associated death in Benzie (1).
- On Wednesday, January 5, 38 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (14) and Leelanau (24).
- Today, January 6, 42 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (15) and Leelanau (27).

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 2,497, Leelanau– 2,685
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 244, Leelanau– 325
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 2,203, Leelanau– 2,324
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 50, Leelanau– 36
- Hospitalized: 296 total; 9 currently

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