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## PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

**For Immediate Release**

**February 22, 2022**

### **Being fully vaccinated means leads to fewer hospitalizations, deaths**

The importance of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 continues to be emphasized by health officials.

Being fully vaccinated – two doses of Moderna or Pfizer or one dose of J&J – leads to fewer hospitalizations and deaths, according to information released by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). MDHHS [created an eligibility assessment tool](#) to assist residents in identifying if they are eligible for a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, or if they are up to date.

The MDHHS [recently released data](#) showing that 76.8% of COVID-19 cases are reported in people who are not fully vaccinated. More than 84% of hospitalizations and 81.8% of deaths are in people not fully vaccinated.

“It is great news that the number of cases is declining in our state and our region,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer for the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department. “We want to keep this downward trend continuing and prevent another surge. Therefore, it is still critical that anyone who is eligible get vaccinated and receive their booster shot,” she said.

Starting next week, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is combining the clinics dedicated for young clients with adults. [Clinics are offered at convenient times](#) at both health department offices.

In addition to getting vaccinated, the health department encourages additional mitigation measures to keep individuals and their communities safe:

- **After testing positive** for COVID-19, individuals are encouraged to talk to their health care provider about whether they meet eligibility criteria and should get antibody or antiviral treatment to help with their recovery. Learn more about [COVID-19 Therapeutics](#).
- **Isolation and Quarantine.** Staying away from others when you are sick or were recently exposed to COVID-19 are important tools to prevent further spread of the virus. Learn more about [what happens when you have or are exposed to COVID-19](#)
- **Get tested if you are exposed or have symptoms.** Anyone with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 should get tested regardless of vaccination status or prior infection. If you get tested because you have symptoms or were potentially exposed to the virus, you should stay away from others while you wait for your test result. Testing before unmasked gatherings provides an additional layer of protection. To schedule a COVID-19 test with the health department, [click here](#).
- **Take additional steps to protect yourself and others.** For additional guidance on mitigation strategies see [How to Protect Yourself and Others](#).

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is offering free COVID-19 Home Test and KN-95 masks at each of their locations. The home testing kits are available for the public in our offices, while supplies last. Each kit has 2 tests, and each person can take one kit as supplies are limited. The masks are available in packs of two, first come first served while supplies last, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. All offices are closed from 12-1 p.m. for lunch. Office locations include:

- Benzie Office, 6051 Frankfort Hwy, Benzonia, MI 49616
- Leelanau Office, 7401 E. Duck Lake Road, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653

The health department also offers convenient COVID-19 vaccination clinics for all area residents and visitors 5 years and older. Parent consent is required for minors. These clinics will be open to first, second, additional, and booster dose appointments and offers all three vaccines unless otherwise noted.

#### **Upcoming clinics include:**

##### **Wednesday, February 23rd – Community COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic for 12 years and older**

- Platte River Association, 12990 Honor Hwy, Honor, MI 49640.
- Time: 3:00-5:00pm
- To schedule an appointment: [Click here](#)

##### **Wednesday, February 23rd**

- BLDHD Leelanau Office, 7401 E. Duck Lake Road, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653
- Time: 8:00-12:00 and 1- 4:30pm
- Appointments required and Parent/guardian must accompany minor
- To schedule an appointment: [Click here](#)

##### **Friday, February 25th**

- BLDHD Benzie Office, 6051 Frankfort Hwy, Benzonia, MI 49616
- Time: 8:00-12:00 and 1- 4:30pm
- Appointments required and Parent/guardian must accompany minor
- To schedule an appointment: [Click here](#)

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. Additional vaccination sites can be found at [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).

#### **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 Wednesday, February 16, 12 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (10) and Leelanau (2).
- On Thursday, February 17, 11 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (2) and Leelanau (9).
- On Friday, February 18, 12 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (2) and Leelanau (10).
- On Saturday, February 19, 2 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Leelanau (2).
- On Sunday, February 20, 3 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (3).
- On Monday, February 21, no new cases of COVID-19 were reported.
- Today, February 22, 9 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (5) and Leelanau (4).

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 3,330, Leelanau– 3,530
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 280, Leelanau– 274
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 2,994, Leelanau– 3,216
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 56, Leelanau– 40

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