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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

April 19, 2022

Choose to boost Second COVID-19 booster available

With vaccines a personal choice, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department welcomes the public's questions on safety, clinic locations, and the results of vaccinations in combatting COVID-19. The health department offers a variety of resources to help increase personal awareness at www.bldhd.org, as well as a direct line to speak with staff at 231-882-2197.

"While we would all like the COVID-19 pandemic to be over, we are monitoring the Omicron BA.2 variant as it increases in Michigan and the U.S.," said Dr. Joshua Meyerson, Medical Director for the Health Department. "We hope to be a valuable resource for our neighbors as they continue to make decisions about vaccines and other mitigation measures for themselves and their families."

"With 41 new cases since April 1st in our service area of Benzie and Leelanau counties, we continue to encourage area residents to choose to take the next step in getting vaccinated – whether it's their first dose or their fourth," said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer for the health department.

COVID-19 vaccination helps protect adults and children ages 5 years and older from getting sick or severely ill – and it protects those around them. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), all currently [approved or authorized](#) COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective and reduce your risk of severe illness.

The CDC's updated [COVID-19 Community Level tool](#) shows the risk for new cases in Benzie and Leelanau County has been raised from low to medium. The medium status means:

- If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions,
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines, and
- Get tested if you have symptoms.

While COVID-19 vaccines are working well to prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death, the latest data show that boosters increase protection against the latest Omicron variant. To determine if you are eligible for a booster vaccination or to schedule your booster shot, [click here](#).

Stay up to date on the latest information in the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department jurisdiction by [liking and following our Facebook page](#) and visiting our [COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#). To locate a testing facility, visit the [Michigan COVID-19 Test Finder website](#). To track the risk levels of COVID-19 pandemic indicators, visit the [MI Safe Start Map website](#). For more information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, visit the [MDHHS vaccine website](#) or the [CDC vaccine website](#). Anyone with questions about COVID-19, testing, or vaccines can call the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID line at 231-882-2197.

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