



Benzie County Office
6051 Frankfort Hwy, Ste 100
Benzonia, MI 49616

Phone: 231-882-4409
Fax: 231-882-0143

www.bldhd.org

Leelanau County Office
7401 E. Duck Lake Rd
Lake Leelanau, MI 49653

Phone: 231-256-0200
Fax: 231-882-0143

PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

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Returning from spring break and wanting to get tested? Second booster available for those over 50, or immunocompromised

If you're returning from spring break and want to get tested, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department has you covered! In addition, the health department is offering a second booster shot for those 50 and older or who may be immunocompromised and wish to further protect themselves from COVID-19.

"As many of us are returning from spring break travels, it is important to know your COVID-19 status," said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer for the health department. "We offer free and quick tests in convenient locations in all our counties," she added. To find a location near you, visit www.bldhd.org.

Should you or anyone in your household test positive, or if you are exposed to someone who is COVID-19 positive, you should [know the steps to take](#) to isolate or quarantine for the safety of you and those around you.

In addition to testing, residents are urged to make sure their vaccinations are up to date. The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department offers [convenient COVID-19 vaccination clinics](#) in Benzie and Leelanau County.

The health department is beginning to offer residents ages 50 and up, and moderately or severely immunocompromised individuals over age 12, a second booster vaccine. Yesterday, the health department opened additional appointments for those who would like a second booster.

Dr. Joshua Meyerson urges those who are at high risk of the severe complications from COVID-19, or who live with someone who is immunocompromised, to get the second booster shot.

"The second booster vaccine is meant to provide further protection in those with underlying health conditions," Dr. Meyerson said. "Each individual should base their decision to get the second booster shot on their medical conditions, whether they've recently had COVID (which provides some protection), and the makeup of others in their household who may be immunocompromised. These are all considerations to take into account," he said.

Four months after receipt of a first booster dose, the following options are available to individuals who choose to receive a second dose:

- A second booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine may be administered to individuals 50 years of age and older.
- A second booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine may be administered to moderately or severely immunocompromised individuals 12 years of age and older.
- A second booster dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine may be administered to moderately or severely immunocompromised individuals 18 years of age and older.

"Vaccination continues to be our best protection strategy against severe COVID illness and death," Dr. Meyerson said, adding it is important to be up to date on your vaccination series, whether it is first or second doses or the booster shots.

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](#).

Media Contact:

Rachel Pomeroy, PIO

231-882-6085

RPomeroy@bldhd.org

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