



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

May 3, 2022

Fresh Air Gatherings Warming Weather Improves 2022 Celebration Safety

The summer months offer many benefits in northwest Michigan – including a drop in virus transmissions, such as COVID-19. As residents resume small and large gatherings, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is offering a checklist to help plan for safe summer celebrations.

“Just like planning what to pack when traveling or what to carry into a festival or concert, the health department is sharing our at-a-glance checklist for staying safe this summer,” said Dan Thorell, Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department’s Interim Health Officer. “In addition to having a great time with friends and family at the event, we want to make sure you’re able to enjoy healthy summer days following the celebrations.”

- ✓ Consider the number of COVID-19 cases and vaccinated people in your community or the community you are visiting. Check the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [COVID Data Tracker](#) when making decisions on travel and attending events.
- ✓ [Review and update](#) your vaccination status to ensure you’re current with the recommended COVID-19 vaccines. The Health Department continues to offer [free vaccines at its clinics](#) and partners with Honu to provide additional clinics as needed to meet public needs.
- ✓ While there is no longer a federal order requiring masks while using public transportation, the CDC recommends that people wear masks while using public modes of transportation.
- ✓ If you are not up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines and you opt to travel, [get tested](#) before and after the trip.
- ✓ Continue to practice thorough hand washing and use of hand sanitizer while traveling and attending group gatherings.
- ✓ Avoid group gatherings if you are ill and [get tested](#).

“While deaths and hospitalizations from COVID-19 are [currently low](#) in Benzie and Leelanau counties, clusters of the BA.2 variant continue to be higher in populations of people that interact indoors,” said Dr. Joshua Meyerson, Medical Director. “Don’t hesitate to take advantage of the [Test and Treat option](#) that’s helping minimize the personal impacts of the virus.”

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is offering [a new tool](#) for Michigan residents and healthcare providers to help locate COVID-19 treatments across the state. Users may search to find locations where oral treatments are available for those who qualify.

Retail chain pharmacies that have oral antivirals in stock include Meijer, Walgreens, Rite-Aid, and CVS, in addition to selected independent pharmacy locations. It is important to contact your healthcare provider if you test positive, as you must present a prescription from a physician or advanced practice clinician to pick up medication at a pharmacy.

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.

Media Contact:

Rachel Pomeroy, PIO

231-882-6085

RPomeroy@bldhd.org

###