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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

October 14, 2021

New report focuses on COVID impact on children

According to a recently published report titled, [MI COVID Response Data and Modeling Update](#), each day in Michigan more than 375 children under age 12 become infected with COVID-19. Approximately 30 pediatric patients are hospitalized every day, and half have no known underlying health conditions. K-12 schools in Michigan have reported 364 outbreaks and clusters, with 104 schools impacted by lost school time from illness or quarantine since September 27, 2021.

Authored by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), this new report includes statewide and regional statistics on the impact of COVID-19 on the younger population. The health department continually monitors local data and risk factors for COVID-19 to protect the health of all residents.

“It is sobering to read that even one child has been directly impacted by COVID-19,” said Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director of the Health Department. “The pandemic has impacted so much of their lives and it’s been going on for almost two years now...impacting their schooling, their family life, their free time, and especially their health,” he added about the report which was released October 5.

The 77-page report includes an overview of metrics for individuals 18 and younger across the state and regionally. The health department’s jurisdiction is located in the Traverse City region. It also cites case rate trends by pediatric age group and region, statewide hospitalization trends, the number of weekly reported outbreaks - with K-12 schools topping the list of 17 other categories by site type, including long term care and other assisted living settings. Information on school districts and mask policies (as of October 4) is also included.

Since October 1, 2021, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department has reported the following:

- 164 total new cases (Benzie- 96; Leelanau- 68) of COVID-19
- Age distribution:
 - 0-12 years old- 21 new cases
 - 13-19 years old- 13 new cases
 - 20-29 years old- 14 new cases
 - 30-39 years old- 31 new cases
 - 40-49 years old- 25 new cases
 - 50-59 years old- 24 new cases
 - 60-69 years old- 19 new cases
 - 70-79 years old- 11 new cases
 - 80+ years old- 5 new cases
 - Unknown- 1 new case
- Symptomatic – 88.3% of cases, Asymptomatic – 2.5% of cases, and Unknown – 9.2% of cases
- Recovered – 110 new recovered
- Hospitalized – 6 new hospitalizations

One take-away from the report is that prevention measures in K-12 schools - such as vaccinations, correct and consistent use of well-fitted masks that cover the nose and mouth, physical distancing, screening and testing, and effective ventilation - are effective against transmission of the virus.

Vaccination is our most powerful tool. The health department offers convenient COVID-19 vaccination clinics for all area residents and visitors 12 and older by appointment ahead of time. 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 client choice of Pfizer, Moderna, or J&J's Janssen unless otherwise noted.

Upcoming clinics for appointments only include:

Tuesday, October 19th

- Suttons Bay Middle School Gymnasium, 310 S. Elm Street, Suttons Bay, MI 49682
- Time: 1:00-5:00pm
- Vaccine: Moderna, Janssen, and Pfizer (open to 12 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
- To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Wednesday, October 20th

- Crystal Cafe, 1681 Benzie Hwy, Benzonia, MI 49616
- Time: 1:00- 5:00pm
- Vaccine: Moderna, Janssen, and Pfizer (open to 12 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
- To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

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:

- On Monday and Thursday from 10 - 3pm at the Suttons Bay Old Middle School. To register visit: <http://honumg.info/OldSuttonsBayMS>
- On Tuesday and Friday, from 10 am – 3pm at the Crystal Café in Benzonia. To register visit: <https://honumg.info/CrystalCafe>

COVID-19 Case Counts

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting the following case information:

- On Tuesday, October 12, 11 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (5), and Leelanau (6).
- On Wednesday, October 13, 14 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (12), and Leelanau (2).
- Today, October 14, 8 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (6) and Leelanau (2).

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,565, Leelanau– 1,582
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 172, Leelanau– 132
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,359, Leelanau– 1,430
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 34, Leelanau– 20
- Hospitalized: 195 total; 4 currently

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