



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

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

[www.bldhd.org](http://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**

**October 22, 2020**

### **The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update**

Today there were no new cases of COVID-19 reported in Benzie or Leelanau County. Correction, we reported the incorrect age for the COVID-19 related death this week. The gentleman was in his 90's, not 80's.

Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department's stance on release possible exposure sites: We take releasing exposure sites seriously to protect the individual and protect the community. We release possible exposure sites when it is determined that not all close contacts have been or can be identified.

Potential low-risk public exposure locations for new cases where close contacts may not have been able to be identified are listed below. If you were at this location during the times identified, please monitor yourself for symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste/smell, fever, muscle aches, sore throat, fatigue, headache, runny nose/congestion, vomiting, diarrhea). If symptoms develop, notify your health care provider or seek out testing.

- Frankfort Garden Theater: 301 Main St, Frankfort, MI
  - Saturday, October 17 and Sunday, October 18

There are several factors at play when determining possible exposure sites including the information we are able to obtain related to where and when a case has been at a particular location and their activity at that location, whether or not the site is located in or linked to a case in another health department jurisdiction, and the time it takes to be notified about a confirmed case and any related exposure sites. We understand that in our small community the business, school, or community might know about a potential exposure before we are able to finish our case investigation and release information. We are working hard to provide timely and accurate information to the public and we will release possible exposure site information as soon as those sites are identified.

Yesterday, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) released holiday [travel](#) and [celebration](#) guidance. Although this holiday season may look different than in years past, we at the health department along with MDHHS want to ensure that those who want to gather together to celebrate the holidays know how to do so safely. As we have seen a rise in cases in the past few weeks, we continue to urge residents to follow all safety precautions every day even when in your own community to stay healthy and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

"This is a time when we need to stick together – as a community, as a state, and as a nation. It seems as though there are new hurdles each day to face related to the pandemic. We are seeing a steady rise in cases and hospitalizations across the state, Dr. Khaldun noted that our current rate of 131 cases per million per day represents a rise of 80% compared to a month ago," stated Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. "As we approach fall holidays and celebrations, we must all be reminded that this virus is unpredictable, and the risks are personal for all of us. We need to continue to protect ourselves in order to protect our communities."

As of 4:00pm, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting:

- Positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 94, Leelanau– 131
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 25, Leelanau– 24
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 67, Leelanau– 105
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 2, Leelanau– 2
- Probable COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie – 7, Leelanau– 16
- Hospitalized: 20 total; 0 current

The State of Michigan has reported 152,862 cases and 7,129 deaths.

Visit our [COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#) for the latest local information including recovered data and contact tracing. Michigan Department of Health and Human Service Dashboard: [Dashboard](#). Additional and updated information can be found on our [Website](#) and [Facebook](#) or by calling our public information line 231-882-2197. If you have COVID-19 related question, fill out a quick [survey](#), email questions to [hotline@bldhd.org](mailto:hotline@bldhd.org), or call our public information line at 231-882-2197.

Media Contact:

Rachel Pomeroy, PIO

231-882-6085

[RPomeroy@bldhd.org](mailto:RPomeroy@bldhd.org)

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