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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

October 29, 2020

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

Today there were eight new cases of COVID-19 identified in Benzie County and four new cases of COVID-19 identified in Leelanau County. Case investigations are currently in progress. With the increasing number of cases and contacts, we ask that anyone who has been told they have COVID-19 or who knows that they have been in contact with someone who has COVID stay at home until they receive further instructions. It may take 24-48 hours for someone from the COVID team to contact you.

“Many people blame or shame those who get or spread COVID-19 however cases are occurring in all counties and have been reported in all age groups. There have been outbreaks reported involving workplaces, and small and large gatherings. Community transmission is apparent throughout the area and our hospitals are reporting the highest census of COVID-19 positive cases in their facilities since the pandemic began,” stated Dr. Meyerson, Medical Director. “We all have a personal responsibility to take this virus seriously in order to prevent further spread within our communities.”

Flu vaccination is more important than ever this season. The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is partnering with school districts and long-term care facilities to administer flu vaccinations to their students/residents on site. School students are scheduled to get FREE Flu Mist Vaccinations. The flu mist is a nasal spray vaccine that is well tolerated (and often preferred) by children. More information on flu mist can be found [here](#). For those that cannot get the nasal flu the inactivated flu vaccine (flu shot) will be available as well in limited quantities.

Each year the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) tracks influenza cases and this year they are sharing data in a dashboard with information regarding vaccination status compared to last flu season and the target goal the state has set for the 2020-2021 flu season, and additional influenza resources and data can be found by visiting www.Michigan.gov/flu. We continue to add new dates for flu vaccination clinics and encourage residents to call 231-882-4409 to schedule an appointment. Free vaccine is available for those who are under or uninsured.

According to the Michigan.gov influenza statistics dashboard, vaccine dosages administered this year is lower compared to both last year and the state of Michigan 2020-2021 goal. “I recommend that everyone over 6 months of age get an influenza vaccine every year,” shared Dr. Meyerson, Medical Director. “We all need to continue to practice COVID-19 mitigation strategies and receive the flu vaccination to protect ourselves and our neighbors and to ensure that our hospitals can handle any increase to their census.”

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

- Positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 121, Leelanau– 149
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 46, Leelanau– 38
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 73, Leelanau– 109
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 2, Leelanau– 2
- Probable COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie – 6, Leelanau– 19
- Hospitalized: 23 total; 3 current

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, or call our public information line at 231-882-2197.

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