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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

October 8, 2020

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

Today there were two new cases of COVID-19 identified in Benzie County. Case investigation and contact tracing are in progress.

On October 6th, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) issued reporting requirements for confirmed positive and probable cases in schools. The emergency order was issued under MCL 333.2253 and is in effect until lifted. Reporting requirements starting October 12th at 8am include:

- Upon learning that a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19 is a school associated case, the local health department must, within 24 hours, notify the school to which the school associate case(s) relate, including the affected building or location and other information that may assist the School with carrying out its duties under this order.
- Within 24 hours of being notified by a local health department of school associated case(s), the School must provide public notice to the school community in a highly visible location on the School's website that covers the impacted building or location. Schools are encouraged to provide information about measures in place at the school to prevent transmission of COVID-19, as well as measures that individuals can take to prevent transmission.
- Public notice does not replace the need for direct notification to persons who were, or are suspected to have been, a close contact of school associated case(s); such notice is the responsibility of the local health department.

"We have been working directly with the schools for months and schools have created COVID-19 safety plans that have been approved by their school boards and remain in place," stated Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. "The schools are working hard to keep their staff and students safe and we will work closely with them to assist with continued compliance with the requirements to ensure transparency."

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

- Positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 77, Leelanau– 113
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 23, Leelanau– 20
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 52, Leelanau– 92
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 2, Leelanau– 1
- Probable COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie – 4, Leelanau– 9
- Hospitalized: 18 total; 1 current

The State of Michigan has reported 132,039 cases and 6,869 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, or call our public information line at 231-882-2197.

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