



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

November 19, 2020

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department has reported 21 new cases (Benzie- 10; Leelanau- 11) of COVID-19 for today. Case investigations for new cases are currently in progress.

Our records show that 270 tests were completed yesterday at the Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore testing site. We are grateful for the partnership with the National Lakeshore as well as the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and the Benzie County "CERT" Team in bringing this service to our community. If you were tested yesterday, results can be found on your HONU Lab patient portal. The link should be located in your confirmation email from HONU lab.

We have been receiving a large number of questions about quarantine and isolation timelines related to specific scenarios that may be occurring for our residents as COVID-19 spreads in our communities. We have compiled a few resources to support our residents understanding of testing positive, self-quarantine, isolation and why these timelines may differ on an individual basis.

- [Isolation versus quarantine - CDC](#)
- [Steps to take if you test positive](#)
- [What defines a close contact?](#)

"Locally, our hospital systems and long-term care facilities are asking for our help in protecting both the healthcare system and the vulnerable. The hospitals are not only concerned about their COVID units being full, but they are also concerned about the number of staff out of work due to illness or quarantine, further depleting their strained capacity," stated Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. "Many critical infrastructure staff are being exposed to COVID-19 in the general community, often at small and private gatherings. When community transmission is this widespread, we have to regroup and revise our strategies to be most effective. This type of pivot also requires widespread community support – it is critical that everyone understands the instructions for isolation and quarantine and is able to take these steps immediately when learning of a positive test result."

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

- Positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 238, Leelanau– 289
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 131, Leelanau– 152
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 103, Leelanau– 135
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 4, Leelanau– 2
- Probable COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie – 20, Leelanau– 20
- Hospitalized: 39 total; 9 current

The State of Michigan has reported 285,398 cases and 8,324 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.

Media Contact:

Rachel Pomeroy, PIO
231-882-6085

RPomeroy@bldhd.org

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