



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

December 14, 2020

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

Today there were four new cases of COVID-19 reported in Benzie County and five new cases of COVID-19 reported in Leelanau County. The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department has reported 49 new cases (Benzie- 20; Leelanau- 29) of COVID-19 since Saturday. Below is a summary of our cumulative cases for the timeframe 12/12/2020 -12/14/2020:

- Age:
 - 0-12 years – 2 cases
 - 13-19 years – 5 cases
 - 20-29 years – 5 cases
 - 30-39 years – 2 cases
 - 40-49 years – 7 cases
 - 50-59 years – 9 cases
 - 60-69 years – 9 cases
 - 70-79 years – 6 cases
 - 80-89 years – 3 cases
 - 90+ years – 1 case
- Residents – 100% new cases that case investigations have been completed
- Symptomatic – 92.3% of new cases, Asymptomatic – 7.7% of new cases that case investigations have been completed
- Recovered – 48 new recovered (Benzie-18, Leelanau-30)
- Hospitalization – 4 new reported this week
- Death – One new over the weekend, (Benzie, 60's, male)

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department has been receiving numerous questions about the available COVID-19 vaccines in recent weeks. It is important to remember that information changes regularly, and we will continue to update our communities as we know new information. Below is the information we know at this time:

- In partnership with the other health departments in our region we know that we will receive an initial allocation of Pfizer vaccine this week.
- The Pfizer vaccine is the first COVID-19 vaccine issued EUA (emergency use authorization) by the FDA for people aged 16 years and older.
- Local health departments, hospital systems, pharmacies, and federally qualified health centers will be administering COVID-19 vaccinations following our respective protocols, but we are working together to vaccinate in our communities.
- We will be distributing vaccines based on priority groups determined by the CDC and the ACIP (a federal advisory committee made up of medical and public health experts who develop recommendations on the use of vaccines in the United States). The priority groups are as follows:
 - **Phase 1A** includes paid and unpaid persons serving in health care settings who have direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials and are unable to work from home, as well as residents of long-term care facilities. There are additional priority sub-groups within this phase.
 - **Phase 1B** includes **some workers in essential and critical industries**, including workers with unique skill sets such as non-hospital or non-public health laboratories and mortuary services.
 - **Phase 1C** includes people at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness due to underlying medical conditions, and people 65 years and older.
 - **Phase 2** is a mass vaccination campaign for all adults.

- MDHHS has provided additional prioritization guidance within these categories. The MDHHS prioritization guidance can be found [here](#).
- While hospitals and long-term care facilities working with pharmacies are establishing their plans to vaccinate their populations, local health departments will first be responsible for working together to administer vaccine to EMS personnel and vaccination teams.
- As we receive more information about additional shipments of vaccine and direction to move forward with additional priority groups, we will work to keep the public and our partners informed. Although, we are not yet able to schedule vaccinations for community members at large, we are working to create an electronic form for individuals interested in receiving the vaccine to request a vaccination appointment that we will help us to smooth out the registration process as we move toward additional priority groups and eventually the general public.

While there is still information we do not know right now, we will continue to be transparent and provide updates as soon as we know more.

- We do not know when we will get a second shipment of vaccine, or a timeline for when each priority group could anticipate being vaccinated. Supply of the vaccine will increase substantially over the next few months, and those eligible to receive the vaccine will progress as the supply increases.
- We do not yet know when the Moderna vaccine will be available.

We know that many people have questions surrounding the COVID-19 vaccine. More information can be found by visiting the MDHHS [vaccine website](#) and [FAQ](#), as well as the [CDC vaccine website](#).

“We are excited that we will be receiving COVID-19 vaccine this week,” stated Dr. Meyerson, Medical Director. “We still have a long way to go but distributing this vaccine will bring us one step closer to beating this virus. It has been nearly 10 months since we began dealing with this virus, and we cannot stop following precautionary measures now. We are asking our community members to continue masking, keeping a distance from others, and regularly handwashing to minimize the spread.”

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 560, Leelanau– 526
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 285, Leelanau– 215
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 262, Leelanau– 308
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 13, Leelanau– 3
- Hospitalized: 72 total; 10 current

The State of Michigan has reported 437,985 cases and 10,752 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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