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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release
December 16, 2020

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

Today there were twelve new cases of COVID-19 reported in Benzie County and eleven new cases of COVID-19 reported in Leelanau County. One Leelanau case was moved to another county's jurisdiction and one case removed from Leelanau due to a duplicate case. One new death was reported in Benzie County of a female in her 80's.

Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is expecting an initial allocation Pfizer vaccine this week and will be moving forward in partnership with our counties and partner local health departments across the region to begin vaccinating EMS personnel and vaccination teams while hospital partners begin vaccinating their personnel. In addition, we are actively working with key partners such as hospitals, physician organizations, and community partners to identify and reach out to upcoming priority groups.

"Although we are excited for this hopeful time and ready to begin vaccinating the first priority groups, we must remind our communities this is not a switch to turn off the pandemic. This most recent death of a resident in our jurisdiction reminds us that we are not out of the woods yet. We send our condolences to this individual's family and friends as remember all community members we have lost to COVID-19. We must continue to be diligent in using the tools we have gained throughout the pandemic to continue working against the virus," shared Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. "We know our communities are eager to receive the vaccine and want to know when it is their turn. There are still unknowns regarding timeline and future supply and moving through each priority group will take time, even several months, and will depend on many factors. Please be patient and watch our website, press releases, and Facebook for more information and anyone interested in volunteering in the future can sign up easily through the [MI Volunteer Registry](#)."

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 580, Leelanau– 540
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 284, Leelanau– 220
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 282, Leelanau– 317
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 14, Leelanau– 3
- Hospitalized: 74 total; 9 current

The State of Michigan has reported 446,752 cases and 11,018 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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