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## PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

**For Immediate Release**

**December 17, 2020**

### **The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update**

Today there were 11 new cases of COVID-19 reported in Benzie County and 14 new cases of COVID-19 reported in Leelanau County. Four new COVID associated deaths were reported today (Benzie- 3, Leelanau-1). The three individuals from Benzie County were 2 females in their 70's and 80's and one male in his 80's. The individual from Leelanau County was a male in his 90's. Death data has been added to the dashboard including county, gender, and age breakdown. We extend our deepest condolences to the families and friends of these community members who have been lost.

A data validation check was performed on today while gathering the information for November reports and all data is currently up to date and accurate. The graphics on the dashboard have also been updated to include probable cases as previously explained. During the validation check five duplicate entries were noted and corrected (three Benzie Cases and two Leelanau cases) and a small number of minor data corrections were made including county and zip codes.

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is creating a process to simplify future pre-registration and scheduling for COVID vaccination when it becomes available to a broader population. Currently, we are working with hospitals, physician organizations, regional health departments and other community partners to identify those in the Priority 1A group which includes healthcare workers. We are establishing processes for scheduling these groups to ensure vaccination can occur smoothly for them as we become ready for each of the sub-groups. We are also working on expanded staffing as well as identifying volunteers in anticipation of future large scale outreach clinics. Individuals interested in volunteering can sign up with the [MI Volunteer Registry](#). It will take time to work through the initial priority groups and we will be reaching out to employers and other contacts for scheduling. Please continue to watch our website, daily updates, and our social media posts as we will share additional information as it becomes available!

"There are a lot of moving parts within the health department currently but one of our top priorities remains releasing accurate and timely information to the public," stated Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. "We know that this is a very hopeful moment for so many and we are committed to keeping the community informed as we receive new and updated information. Currently, we are hopeful that this weekend will bring news of the next wave of additional vaccine products becoming available soon."

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 587, Leelanau– 554
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 271, Leelanau– 217
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 299, Leelanau– 333
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 17, Leelanau– 4
- Hospitalized: 76 total; 7 current

The State of Michigan has reported 450,776 cases and 11,208 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](mailto:hotline@bldhd.org), or call our public information line at 231-882-2197.

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