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## PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

**For Immediate Release**

**December 21, 2020**

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

Today there were four new cases of COVID-19 reported in Benzie County and two new cases of COVID-19 reported in Leelanau County. The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department has reported 31 new cases (Benzie- 14; Leelanau- 17) of COVID-19 since Friday at 4:00pm. Below is a summary of our cumulative cases for the timeframe 12/15/2020 -12/21/2020:

- Age:
  - 0-12 years – 7 cases
  - 13-19 years – 11 cases
  - 20-29 years – 11 cases
  - 30-39 years – 16 cases
  - 40-49 years – 14 cases
  - 50-59 years – 19 cases
  - 60-69 years – 23 cases
  - 70-79 years – 9 cases
  - 80-89 years – 5 cases
  - 90+ years – 1 case
- Residents – 100% new cases that case investigations have been completed
- Symptomatic – 91.8% of new cases, Asymptomatic – 8.2% of new cases that case investigations have been completed
- Recovered – 156 new recovered (Benzie-102, Leelanau-54)
- Hospitalization – 11 new reported since last Tuesday
- Death – 5 new since last Tuesday (Benzie- 4, Leelanau- 1)

Due to an issue related to reports in MDSS, our staff is reporting 32 additional cases from December. These cases have been investigated and are still active COVID cases but haven't yet been included in the dashboard and therefore will be added according to their referral date. A recent revision to the process for pulling reports will improve the process going forward.

Over the weekend the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices voted in favor of recommendations for the remainder of Phase 1 vaccinations, establishing Phases 1b and 1c.

- Phase 1b - Adults age 75 and older, and frontline workers key to societal functioning such as teachers, police officers, fire fighters, prison officers and grocery store workers, should be prioritized. This stage *may* start in January 2021.
- Phase 1c - Adults 65 and older, people with underlying medical conditions that put them at higher risk of getting severely ill from COVID-19, and other essential non-frontline workers including those who work in construction, waste, trucking and food service. This stage *may* start in February 2021.

These estimates are based on anticipated vaccine availability, and the CDC phased allocation estimates. We will continue to provide updates on vaccine availability and distribution as the information becomes available.

"We are excited to have begun vaccinating those in our first priority group 1a yesterday and today in our counties," stated Dr. Meyerson, Medical Director. "Getting through the tiers is going to take time and we are asking the community members and business to have patience. We are not ready to schedule appointments outside of this specific process yet. The public should continue to watch our website, social media sites, and daily/weekly updates to stay informed!"

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 623, Leelanau– 592
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 266, Leelanau– 232
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 340, Leelanau– 356
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 17, Leelanau– 4
- Hospitalized: 83 total; 11 current

The State of Michigan has reported 463,403 cases and 11,532 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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