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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

December 22, 2020

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

Today there were thirteen new cases of COVID-19 reported in Benzie County and six new cases of COVID-19 reported in Leelanau County. One case was moved to another county's jurisdiction due to address change.

We were notified today of five additional COVID related deaths. Benzie County reported four COVID associated deaths, one male in his 90's, and three females in their 60's, 80's, and 90's. Leelanau County reported one COVID associated death of a female in her 80's. The MDSS dashboard is reporting one additional death in Leelanau and due to duplication, we will not be reporting that case/COVID associated death due to another county reporting that case/COVID associated death. We extend our deepest condolences to the families and friends of these community members who have been lost.

The Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care (LTC) Program is a national initiative to provide COVID-19 vaccine to the Phase 1A priority groups of long-term care facility residents and staff. This program provides end-to-end management of the COVID-19 vaccination process, including cold chain management, on-site vaccinations, and fulfillment of reporting requirements, to facilitate safe vaccination of this patient population, while reducing burden on LTC facilities and jurisdictional health departments. Michigan is participating in this program and over 5000 LTC facilities have been enrolled in the program.

"This has been a long and challenging journey and although it is not over yet, this week I witnessed hope and relief in the tears and smiles of our teams as they huddled, planned, and launched this latest play in our strategy to beat this virus," stated Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. "The arrival and administration of the vaccine has brought hope to many. May you find moments of peace and hope to carry you through this holiday season."

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 636, Leelanau– 597
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 249, Leelanau– 218
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 366, Leelanau– 374
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 21, Leelanau– 5
- Hospitalized: 84 total; 8 current

The State of Michigan has reported 466,485 cases and 11,705 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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