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## PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

**For Immediate Release**

**December 3, 2020**

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

Today our dashboard will reflect a change that incorporates probable cases into our total case counts. We are reporting 27 new cases of COVID-19 in Benzie County however the total count will include 56 existing probable cases and will therefore state 83 total. We are reporting 25 new cases in Leelanau County but will now include the 43 existing probable cases and will therefore state 68 total. As a reminder, we are making this shift to reporting probable cases and confirmed cases together to simplify the information for the community and to better align with state dashboards such as [mistartmap.info](http://mistartmap.info) as well as other neighboring local health departments. A probable case is defined as either an individual who has been epidemiologically linked with a positive case and has developed symptoms, or someone who has received a positive antigen test result. Probable cases are treated as positive cases with isolation requirements and contact tracing.

Yesterday, the CDC released new quarantine guidance that would reduce the number of quarantine days for individuals. This new guidance was driven by scientific findings and the existing 14-day quarantine period is still best practice. Based on the CDC guidance, MDHHS is updating guidance to specify that the post COVID-19 exposure quarantine period for Michigan residents can be modified in specific situations. While the standard fourteen-day quarantine period remains, the future guidance will allow for individuals to have an opportunity to reduce that to ten days provided:

- The individual does not develop any symptoms or clinical evidence of COVID-19 infection during daily symptom monitoring for the 10 days after the last exposure; and,
- Daily symptom monitoring continues through day 14 after the last exposure.

“We have received some initial guidance from MDHHS today and we will be evaluating and revising our protocols to incorporate it. We will share revised protocols with the public when complete,” stated Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “The standard 14-day quarantine period remains the best way to mitigate post quarantine transmission and we will continue to encourage residents to stay home for the 14 days. We are begging the community to stand strong together in making the safest choices and resist those choices that put you and others at risk such as gathering indoors without distancing or masking.”

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

- Positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 460, Leelanau– 421
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 282, Leelanau– 201
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 170, Leelanau– 217
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 8, Leelanau– 3
- Hospitalized: 62 total; 12 current

The State of Michigan has reported 380,343 cases and 9,580 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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