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## PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

**For Immediate Release**

**December 8, 2020**

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

Today there were 22 new cases of COVID-19 reported in Benzie County and 21 new cases of COVID-19 reported in Leelanau County. There were five COVID-19 cases (Benzie- 3, Leelanau- 2) transferred to another county jurisdiction. We were notified of four new COVID19 related deaths in Benzie County (2 males in their 70's and 2 females in their 80's).

Yesterday, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) [identified three key metrics](#) that will be utilized in determining whether to slowly reopen at the end of the 12-day extension to the current pause. The first metric is percent of inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients which measures the impact of the virus on hospitals. COVID-19 case rate is the second metric, and this is reported as the cases per million residents and measures spread of COVID-19 within a specified area. The final metric is percent of COVID-19 tests conducted that are positive, which indicates whether we are missing cases in the community and often precedes increases in hospitalization. MDHHS and the Governor have stated they will be monitoring for improvement in these trends to determine future release of restrictions.

"We send our deepest condolences to the families and friends of those who have been lost to this virus. We must continue to remain vigilant in observing the precautions intended to protect us all. The current restrictions put into place through the Epidemic Orders of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) are based upon data about what is driving increased risk," shared Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. "These key metrics are major indicators which will allow us to monitor whether risk is decreasing. We continue to ask residents to follow the MDHHS guidelines and always maintain social distance, wash your hands, and wear a mask."

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 514, Leelanau– 467
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 283, Leelanau– 212
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 219, Leelanau– 252
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 12, Leelanau– 3
- Hospitalized: 65 total; 12 current

The State of Michigan has reported 410,295 cases and 10,138 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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