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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release
December 9, 2020

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

Today there were 10 new cases of COVID-19 reported in Benzie County and 8 new cases of COVID-19 reported in Leelanau County.

We received a few inquiries from residents about text messages from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) regarding COVID app and increase in cases. After contacting with staff at the MDHHS, these text messages were not scam and were sent from the state to promote the COVID app in counties with high levels of new cases. The MI COVID Alert is a free app for your mobile phone. It will help us to notify each other and slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Michigan.

Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department created a new [toolkit](#) for the 12-day extension MDHHS Epidemic Order released on Monday. The extended Epidemic Order remains essentially the same in terms of key precautions including key areas such as indoor gatherings restricted to less than 10 people and no more than 2 households (preferably the same two households throughout the duration), restaurants and bars allowed to be open for outdoor dining, takeout and delivery, and high school closed to in-person instruction and extra-curricular activities. Masks and distancing are required anywhere where 2 or more people might be present.

“With the widespread community spread of COVID-19 in our communities, we want to encourage everyone to stay vigilant in following the required precautions.” stated Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “We are encouraged by the hopeful trends that have occurred in response to these precautions that we put into place based on data that indicated the drivers of increased transmission and are hopeful that a little more time will show additional improvement!”

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 524, Leelanau– 475
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 284, Leelanau– 215
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 228, Leelanau– 257
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 12, Leelanau– 3
- Hospitalized: 67 total; 14 current

The State of Michigan has reported 415,200 cases and 10,213 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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