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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

January 26, 2021

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

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

The health department continues to receive questions from seniors and their loved ones regarding the status of COVID-19 vaccine administration in Benzie and Leelanau counties. Here are answers to some of the more frequent questions we receive:

How are vaccines used that are allocated to Benzie and Leelanau counties?

Currently, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is able to vaccinate Phase 1A, 1B, and individuals 65 and older. Vaccine eligibility is determined by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). Phased vaccine eligibility, and any updates to eligibility, can be found by visiting the [MDHHS website](#). The health department's ability to vaccinate eligible individuals depends on the supply of vaccine received, which is determined by an MDHHS population-based formula. The health department continues to schedule appointments based on the amount of vaccine received each week. In addition, we are to follow the guideline of using 75% of allocated vaccine doses for individuals age 65 and over and 25% for individuals in Phase 1A and Phase 1B group B (essential workers).

Where are we on the COVID-19 vaccine list?

We are currently scheduling individuals who have registered for the COVID-19 vaccine before 1/6/2021 at 9pm.

How long will it take before I receive an appointment?

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is working diligently to get everyone who has pre-registered and fits within the currently approved priority groups scheduled for an appointment for vaccination. The number of appointments we can schedule is based on how many vaccines we receive. It may take several weeks before you receive an email or phone call to schedule your vaccination appointment. Again, please regularly check your spam, junk folders, or have your friend or family member notify you when he/she receives the email appointment schedule. Due to limited appointments, we ask that you try to keep your scheduled appointment.

Is there a standby list for clinics?

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department has no standby list for clinics, we have our waiting list and will use that to contact individuals if extra doses are available at the end of the clinic. We schedule doses based on how much vaccine we have available.

My neighbor/friend/family does not have internet access. How can I help them?

If you know any family/friend/neighbor who does not have computer access, it is possible for other family members, friends and neighbors may assist them with completing [our survey](#). In addition, those who may not have a computer or internet, may call the Senior Hotline at 231-715-5557. During this time of high call volume, you may not get through immediately and are asked to keep trying.

"We continue to work closely with the local agencies that support our aging population, as we know not everyone in this population has access to internet and our information," stated Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. "The support of the Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan, Commissions on Aging, United Way, and other local agencies are helping us to reach these vulnerable populations. We are advocating for our area residents to receive more vaccine to continue increasing our vaccine capacity, and we appreciate the continued patience and support of our communities."

The estimated number of doses needed to fully vaccinate all those in Phase 1a and Phase 1b in the Benzie-Leelanau Health jurisdiction is approximately 30,000 doses. The estimated time to complete vaccinating individuals 65 years and older and those eligible essential workers is mid-July 2021. Here is where we are currently:

- Number of vaccine doses available this week: 200 doses
- Total number of vaccine doses received: 1,796 doses
- Total number of vaccine doses administered: 1,596 doses

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 812, Leelanau– 817
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 139, Leelanau– 172
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 645, Leelanau– 633
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 28, Leelanau– 12
- Hospitalized: 116 total; 7 current

The State of Michigan has reported 552,556 cases and 14,405 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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