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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

January 28, 2021

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

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

Despite continued limited allocations of vaccine across northern Michigan, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department has administered 1,800 COVID-19 vaccinations to residents across its two-county jurisdiction since mid-December.

“Every dose is a win and will potentially save a life. We can’t lose focus and optimism as we face the inherent challenges of this process,” stated Health Officer Lisa Peacock.

The enthusiasm across the community for receiving the vaccine is encouraging and we know that residents have many questions. Here are answers to some of the many questions we receive:

Where and how often are COVID-19 vaccine clinics?

We continue to hold clinics in each county weekly of varying size as vaccine allocations allow. We are exploring options to continue these as well as rotate locations to make clinics more accessible to all residents.

Where are we on the COVID-19 vaccine pre-registration/sign up list?

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

How will I be contacted when it is my turn for the COVID-19 Vaccine?

We contact individuals by email first if they have provided one and then follow up with a phone contact if they did not schedule. We also receive regular updates from the 211 Aging Hotline and add those individuals to our list with time stamps to fit into our survey responses. Please do not complete the survey more than once or use both the aging hotline and survey.

If you receive scheduling information, please do not share it with others. We have a waiting list and we want to make sure that it is fair for everyone.

Is there a standby list for clinics?

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

Are you taking into consideration serious health issues for those who are over 65 and have applied?

Right now, we are focused on when individuals filled out the [pre-registration/sign up/COVID-19 vaccine information survey](#). The MDHHS, CDC, and ACIP have not allocated additional vaccine for those under 65 years old with a health condition that puts them at higher risk.

Will tribal populations receive the vaccine?

Yes. Vaccine is being administered to tribal members through their tribal health clinics.

“Our health department teams have been pivoting between priorities throughout the pandemic,” stated Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “While the goal was clear both then and now, the road to reach it is not simple or easy. The pandemic is exhausting for everyone – we are faced with the heaviest lift of work to be done at a time when we are really, really tired. However, we know that vaccination is the clear path out of this difficult time and we also know that we can and will accomplish this goal. The enthusiasm of the community surrounding the COVID-19 vaccine is refreshing and encouraging! We care about all of our residents and we want them all to be vaccinated as soon as possible!”

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 (this includes second 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 administered this week: 204 doses
- Total number of vaccine doses received: 1,800 doses
- Total number of vaccine doses administered: 1,800 doses

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 834, Leelanau– 828
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 150, Leelanau– 169
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 656, Leelanau– 647
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 28, Leelanau– 12
- Hospitalized: 119 total; 9 current

The State of Michigan has reported 556,109 cases and 14,491 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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