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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

January 6, 2021

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

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

Today, Governor Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) announced starting Monday, January 11th, residents in Phase 1B are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. MDHHS announced changes to who is eligible for Phase 1B and now includes individuals 65 years and older and some frontline workers (school and childcare staff, frontline responders (County, state, and federal levels), and staff in jails, prisons, and shelters). Area Agency on Aging (AAA) has created an aging hotline to help assistant older adults inquiring about when/where for COVID-19 vaccine information, individuals can call 231-715-5557.

This will not change our COVID-19 Vaccine process, we will contact individuals and release information when we have the vaccine available and ready to schedule the next phase. The vaccine clinics are appointment-only and are scheduled at specific times. They are not open to walk-in's due to the need to plan carefully for allocated vaccine doses and to maintain safety precautions such as social distancing. We ask that you do not call the health department requesting an appointment. There is an electronic form available on [our website](#) for those in 1B to allow to begin collecting information from those interested in receiving the vaccine. As soon as we are ready to schedule Phase 1B appointments we will share this information widely as we are excited to continue administering COVID-19 vaccines. We are asking our residents to monitor our daily updates and website for news on our status with these phased vaccinations.

“Our clinic appointments are currently scheduled with healthcare workers and we will expand as quickly as possible. As we receive additional allocations of vaccine, we will continually open more clinic appointments. We are also working closely with our hospital and provider partners to ensure a smooth and efficient process,” stated Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “The COVID-19 vaccine process is rapidly changing, and we understand everyone is eager to get the vaccine. We are not currently scheduling Phase 1B but are collecting information through our website and have plans to start in the near future. Please be patient and we will update everyone regularly.”

As our weekly vaccination clinics grow, we know that community members may be interested in volunteering to support our clinics and other health department needs. If you feel you are able to help as a volunteer for any of our health department activities, please register with the [MI Volunteer registry](#) and fill out our [volunteer survey](#) for potential volunteer opportunities in our communities.

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 707, Leelanau– 672
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 158, Leelanau– 154
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 521, Leelanau– 510
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 28, Leelanau– 8
- Hospitalized: 98 total; 6 current

The State of Michigan has reported 508,736 cases and 12,918 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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