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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

January 7, 2021

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

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

We are experiencing extremely high call volumes as a result of the MDHHS update to vaccine eligibility, allowing for a segment of Phase 1B and individuals 65 & older to be vaccinated **as vaccine supply allows**. Key information to know at this point is as follows:

- As of today, we are not currently scheduling appointments for Phase 1B or those 65 & older because we are still vaccinating Phase 1A.
- Please do not call the health department to schedule an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccine. Individuals in Phase 1A, Phase 1B, and those 65 & older can complete our COVID-19 Vaccination Information Form to notify us of your interest in receiving a vaccine. We will then schedule appointments using this information by Phase.
- If you are a business or organization that has employees in Phase 1A, Phase 1B, or they are 65 & older please complete **one** submission on behalf of your interested staff.
- Any individual that is under quarantine or isolation guidance **cannot** be vaccinated until their quarantine or isolation period ends.

“While we are working together with our hospital partners to finish vaccinating healthcare workers, we are simultaneously preparing for those in priority group 1B who will become eligible for vaccination next week. This group will include older adults and some essential frontline workers,” stated Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “These clinics require appointments due to the fragile nature of the available vaccines as well as the need to maintain safety through distancing and gathering sizes. It is our goal to vaccinate the community as quickly and safely as possible including 2nd doses administered within the required timeframe. We urge the public to use our website for information, and use of the online form for those eligible, as this process will allow us to move forward most efficiently.”

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 719, Leelanau– 685
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 163, Leelanau– 160
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 528, Leelanau– 517
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 28, Leelanau– 8
- Hospitalized: 98 total; 5 current

The State of Michigan has reported 512,751 cases and 13,094 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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