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## PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

January 8, 2021

### The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

Today there were nine new cases of COVID-19 reported in Benzie County and seven new cases of COVID-19 reported in Leelanau County. The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department has reported 63 new cases (Benzie- 31; Leelanau- 32) of COVID-19 since Tuesday, January 5th. Below is a summary of our cumulative cases for the timeframe 1/5/2021 -1/8/2021:

- Age:
  - 0-12 years – 2 cases
  - 13-19 years – 7 cases
  - 20-29 years – 12 cases
  - 30-39 years – 6 cases
  - 40-49 years – 5 cases
  - 50-59 years – 8 cases
  - 60-69 years – 14 cases
  - 70-79 years – 7 cases
  - 80-89 years – 0 cases
  - 90+ years – 1 case
- Residents – 100% new cases that case investigations have been completed
- Symptomatic – 86% of new cases, Asymptomatic – 14% of new cases that case investigations have been completed
- Recovered – 79 new recovered (Benzie-43, Leelanau-36)
- Hospitalization – 3 new reported
- COVID Associated Deaths – 1 new reported earlier this week
- Transfer – 1 case transferred from Leelanau County to Benzie County due to address change

While this is an exciting time for those able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is still reporting new cases daily and urges residents to demonstrate safety precautions to protect themselves, their loved ones, and their communities from the coronavirus.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) still requires individuals who test positive and their close contacts to isolate and quarantine, respectively. Quarantine and isolation practices are scientifically proven to reduce the spread of the virus, and a 14-day quarantine period is still best practice. While the standard 14-day quarantine period remains, the guidance released last month has allowed for individuals to have an opportunity to reduce that to 10 days provided:

- The individual does not develop any symptoms or clinical evidence of COVID-19 infection during daily symptom monitoring for the 10 days after the last exposure; and,
- Daily symptom monitoring continues through day 14 after the last exposure.

“Although the focus in recent weeks has been on the vaccine rollout, we must continue masking, maintaining a distance from others, regularly and properly handwashing, and following full quarantine and isolation guidance,” said Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director. “Residents cannot forget these important safety measures while awaiting their turn to receive the vaccine. While we are all looking forward to scheduling our vaccine, administering this vaccine takes time and careful planning to ensure (the medicine’s) temperature is controlled, and doses are used in full. We continue to ask that residents remain patient and monitor our website, press releases, and Facebook for updates on the latest information about vaccine availability and scheduling.”

On Wednesday, MDHHS announced that Phase 1B and adults 65 and older will be eligible to receive the vaccination starting January 11 **dependent on local health department vaccine supply**. Currently, we are not ready to begin scheduling vaccination for this group because we are working to finish vaccinating Phase 1A. Through a partnership with Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan and United Way of Northwest Michigan, a hotline for seniors has been set up to streamline the registration process. Callers should be prepared to share their name, age, email address if available, phone number, address, county, and if they have access to

transportation to get to a vaccination site within 30 miles of their home. If you are 65 or older, call the senior hotline number at 231-715-5557 to schedule the COVID-19 vaccine through the health department.

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 729, Leelanau– 691
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 153, Leelanau– 166
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 548, 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 516,376 cases and 13,132 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](mailto:hotline@bldhd.org), or call our public information line at 231-882-2197.

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