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## PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

**For Immediate Release**

**February 10, 2021**

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

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

#### **Who is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine in the health department's jurisdiction?**

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department follows the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Michigan guidelines for priority groups, which determines the order of who receives vaccinations and currently only these groups are eligible to be vaccinated:

- PHASE 1A: Paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials as well as residents in long term care facilities.
- PHASE 1B: Individuals 65 and older.
- Approved segments of PHASE 1B: some frontline essential workers including childcare and Pre-K through high school staff, workers in congregate care facilities, firefighters, law enforcement, corrections workers, and inspectors.

If you schedule an appointment for a vaccine and are not in one of the eligible groups, your appointment will be cancelled, and you will not be able to receive your vaccine even if you come to the clinic site.

We know that there are many community members with health conditions that make them particularly vulnerable for complications from COVID-19, and that there are many workers who are also at risk for disease through their job. Unfortunately, the vaccine continues to be a limited resource and we are only authorized to proceed with the prioritization of vaccine supply as defined by MDHHS and CDC. Their prioritization targets these initial vaccine doses toward those most at risk of severe disease and most at risk of acquiring or transmitting infection because of exposure to large numbers of people and an inability to social distance or take protective measures at work.

#### **I registered for a vaccine, now what?**

We understand your frustration with the limited supply of vaccine and ask for your patience. You will be contacted when a vaccine dose is available for you. The number of people who have registered and are requesting a vaccine far exceeds the supply we have received at the health department. It could be weeks or months before an appointment is available for everyone who needs one.

If you receive your vaccine from another provider and have signed up for our waiting list, we ask you to email [covidvaccine@bldhd.org](mailto:covidvaccine@bldhd.org) to let us know we can take you off of the waiting list.

"We know many workers are considered essential and there is a large demand for the COVID-19 vaccine. All of our community members are important to us however we are required to follow the prioritization rules set forth by MDHHS and CDC and are only authorized to vaccinate those who are currently eligible," stated Lisa Peacock, Health Officer.

The estimated time to complete vaccinating individuals 65 years and older and those eligible essential workers is mid-July 2021. We have been notified that our scheduling emails are ending up in junk or spam mail – please check these inboxes frequently. Here is where we are currently:

- All allocated doses have been scheduled for this week.
- We are currently scheduling eligible individuals who registered on 1/7/2021. Note that it may take 2-3 weeks to schedule everyone who registered on a single day.
- Number of vaccine doses allocated for this week: 960 doses (400- 1<sup>st</sup> dose, 560- 2<sup>nd</sup> dose)
- Number of vaccine doses administered this week: 552 doses (202- 1<sup>st</sup> dose, 350- 2<sup>nd</sup> dose)
- Total number of vaccine doses received: 3,744 doses
- Total number of vaccine doses administered: 3,334 doses

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 862, Leelanau– 846
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 106, Leelanau– 101
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 726, Leelanau– 730
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 30, Leelanau– 15
- Hospitalized: 126 total; 4 current

The State of Michigan has reported 570,895 cases and 14,977 deaths.

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