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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

February 16, 2021

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

Today there were two new cases of COVID-19 reported in Benzie County and zero new cases of COVID-19 reported in Leelanau County. The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department has reported five new cases – all in Benzie County - of COVID-19 since Saturday, February 13th. Below is a summary of our cumulative cases for the timeframe 2/13/2021 -2/16/2021:

- Symptomatic – 60% of new cases, Asymptomatic – 40% of new cases that case investigations have been completed.
- Recovered – 42 new recovered (Benzie-17, Leelanau-25)

Yesterday, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) revised their [prioritization guidance for COVID-19 vaccinations](#).

Changes to the MDHHS prioritization guidance include:

- Starting immediately, mortuary service workers will be able to be vaccinated as part of Phase 1A Priority Three Group A as workers who have direct patient contact who conduct high risk procedures (e.g., dentists, endoscopy, dialysis, mortuary services). This group is being reclassified to be more consistent with federal interpretation of the ACIP guidance.
- On March 1, MDHHS will expand vaccine eligibility to workers in food processing and agricultural settings. The workers included in this new portion of Phase 1B are at substantially higher risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 because their work duties must be performed on site and involve being in close proximity (i.e., within 6 feet) to coworkers.
- MDHHS is in the process of developing further information including frequently asked questions around these newly prioritized groups. At this point, this group does not include restaurant or grocery workers.

“As of last week, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department has administered over 3,700 doses of the COVID-19 vaccination,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “We know that it is hard to continue to be patient while waiting for your turn to be vaccinated. We are steadfast in achieving the statewide goal of vaccinating 70% of residents 16 and older as soon as possible, and using at least 95% of weekly vaccine allocation each week.”

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 allocated for this week: 600 doses
- Number of vaccine doses administered this week: 0 doses
- Total number of vaccine doses received: 4,369 doses
- Total number of vaccine doses administered: 3,769 doses

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 871, Leelanau– 847
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 90, Leelanau– 64
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 751, Leelanau– 768
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 30, Leelanau– 15
- Hospitalized: 126 total; 2 current

The State of Michigan has reported 576,264 cases and 15,177 deaths.

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