



Benzie County Office
6051 Frankfort Hwy, Ste 100
Benzonia, MI 49616

Phone: 231-882-4409
Fax: 231-882-0143

www.bldhd.org

Leelanau County Office
7401 E. Duck Lake Rd
Lake Leelanau, MI 49653

Phone: 231-256-0200
Fax: 231-882-0143

PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

February 18, 2021

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

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

Across the state, nearly 2.3 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered with more than 11% of Michigan residents receiving their first dose. As of February 15, the Benzie Leelanau District Health Department has administered 3,769 doses with more than 15% of residents in the district who have received their first dose. This week, more than 600 doses will be administered in Benzie and Leelanau counties.

As of Today, here is where we are currently:

- Number of vaccine doses allocated for this week: 600 doses- all appointments have been scheduled.
- Number of vaccine doses administered so far this week: 441 doses
- Total number of vaccine doses received: 4,369 doses
- Total number of vaccine doses administered: 4,210 doses

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services also opened eligibility for additional limited priority groups. As of March 1, workers in food processing and agricultural settings will be approved for vaccination. The goal in opening this priority group is to help ensure the health and safety of these workers who have to work in close proximity with others as well as to assure the continuity of Michigan's food chain.

The vigorous vaccination rollout brings additional good news, health officials noted. Last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released updated guidance pertaining to quarantine requirements for vaccinated individuals. Fully vaccinated people who have close contact exposure are not required to quarantine if they meet **all** of the following criteria:

- They are within three months of completing their vaccine series.
- Two or more weeks have passed since their final dose of vaccine (1st or 2nd depending on the brand).
- They are not experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19.

Exceptions to these criteria include hospital inpatients and residents of long-term care or congregate settings as there is currently no evidence that demonstrates the effectiveness of the vaccine in reducing transmission in these settings.

Although cases and positivity rates continue to trend downward, there are counties in northern Michigan which continue to demonstrate low testing numbers. "It is very important that testing for COVID-19 continues," stated Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. "Test results are the best source of information about the presence of the virus in our communities. Although case numbers continue to drop, positive cases are often associated with outbreaks which are disruptive for schools and other entities. The area also continues to see severe illness and death related to cases and outbreaks associated with congregate settings."

For those who are in need of testing, here is a full list of [COVID-19 testing locations](#).

"Our youngest and oldest community members need for us to continue to be vigilant," Peacock said. "Our seniors tell us they are waiting patiently at home for their turn to be vaccinated. They are anxious to be reunited with their families and are counting on us to keep community transmission suppressed until they are fully protected. Our students tell us how difficult the past year has been with both short and extended interruptions in their in-person learning. They are nervous that their grades will drop which will compromise their college or career plans," Peacock said, adding, "they want to return to their normal routines but they want to do it safely. They want to know that they can count on the adults in their life to ensure they are safe and supported as they move forward toward their future. And this is something we can all do together."

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 874, Leelanau– 851
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 82, Leelanau– 53
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 762, Leelanau– 783
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 30, Leelanau– 15
- Hospitalized: 126 total; 0 current

The State of Michigan has reported 578,091 cases and 15,273 deaths.

Media Contact:

Rachel Pomeroy, PIO

231-882-6085

RPomeroy@bldhd.org

###