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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

February 1, 2021

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

Today there were zero new cases of COVID-19 reported in Benzie County and one new case of COVID-19 reported in Leelanau County. The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department has reported 1 new case (Benzie- 0; Leelanau- 1) of COVID-19 since Saturday, January 30th. Below is a summary of our cumulative cases for the timeframe 1/30/2021 -2/1/2021:

- Recovered – 35 new recovered (Benzie-19, Leelanau-16)
- Hospitalization – 2 new reported
- Death- 2 new reported (2 Benzie Residents: 1-M, 80's, 2-F, 60's)
- Transfer- 1 Benzie case and 2 Leelanau case transferred to another county due to address change.

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department has created a COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard to provide updates to the public. 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: 959 doses (559 doses are 2nd doses)
- Number of vaccine doses administered this week: 0 doses
- Total number of vaccine doses received: 1,822 doses
- Total number of vaccine doses administered: 1,822 doses

There may be snow on the ground, but many people are starting to think about planning a spring get-away, which may involve extra precautions due to the pandemic should one choose to travel at all.

"I am getting a lot of questions about travel and what, if any, restrictions or safety precautions should be taken in light of COVID-19," stated Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director. "Despite your destination – within the United States or overseas – travelers should practice all the same safety mitigation practices they do at home. However, travelers should be aware of the additional requirements of international travel for both their destination and return to the United States."

International Travel

Effective January 26, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control issued an order requiring all air passengers arriving to the U.S. from a foreign country to get tested no more than 3 days before their flight departs and to present the negative results or documentation of having recovered from COVID-19 to the airline before boarding the flight. After travel, families returning home must get tested 3-5 days after travel **and** stay home and self-quarantine for 7 days after travel. The CDC requires even if you test negative, you need to stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days. If your test is positive, you need to isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected, CDC requirements state. The CDC order applies to all air passengers, 2 years of age or older, traveling into the U.S., including U.S. citizens.

"For anyone traveling abroad to a non-U.S. destination or territory for a week-long spring break, these CDC requirements, upon return, add another week to 10 days of staying home and self-quarantining," Meyerson said, emphasizing how the travel abroad would impact returning to work or school for an additional 7-10 days.

For information about how and where to get tested in the country from which you are traveling or contact local authorities in that country, visit COVID-19 Country Specific Information.

Domestic Travel in US and Territories

For domestic travel the issue is not so much where you go but what you do, Meyerson said.

"We should all practice the same safety measures we do when we are home," Meyerson stated. When away from home it is even more important to avoid crowded indoor spaces as much as possible, always wear a mask when inside a public space and when outside if safe distancing is not possible, he said. If an establishment doesn't seem safe due to crowds or others not masking, seek an alternate. Eating out should be outdoors, and carry out is much safer than dining in. If visiting friends and relatives, you should follow the same guidelines for "social bubbles" as you do at home and keep the number small.

“It’s natural to want to let our guard down on vacation but none of us want to get sick away from home or bring this virus back to our communities,” he added.

For more information about state specific risk levels, as determined by daily new cases, infection rate, and positive test rate, visit the [COVID ActNow website](#).

Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department does offer free COVID-19 testing in our Leelanau office weekly. No doctors order or symptoms are necessary to get tested. To locate the testing site closest to you, [here is a list](#).

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 840, Leelanau– 829
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 127, Leelanau– 149
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 683, Leelanau– 667
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 30, Leelanau– 12
- Hospitalized: 120 total; 7 current

The State of Michigan has reported 561,307 cases and 14,609 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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