



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

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

[www.bldhd.org](http://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 23, 2021**

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

Today there was one new case of COVID-19 reported in Benzie County and seven new cases of COVID-19 reported in Leelanau County.

Starting March 1<sup>st</sup>, Food and Agriculture Workers are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

The state's food and agriculture sector is critical to feeding Michiganders, the continuity of the economy and spans a wide range of jobs. Within the sector, workers at the highest risk are those who must work **in close proximity to many other people for extended periods of time**. In Michigan and across the country, there have been significant outbreaks particularly in processing of meat, fruit, and vegetable processing, and in harvesting of some crops. Therefore, the newest eligible priority group has been identified as:

- Food processing workers including especially meat processing and meatpacking facilities; processing of fruit and vegetables; dairy processing; animal feed manufacturing; food and animal feed ingredient manufacturing; beverage production; and the production of food packaging.
- Farmers and farm workers, including migrant and seasonal workers, involved in raising, cultivating, harvesting, packing, storing, and distributing agricultural commodities, and who are by the nature of their work in close proximity and contact with other people.

"First and foremost, our goal is to safely administer this critical vaccine to our community residents. We recommend that everyone get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as an appointment is made available to them," stated Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director. "The combination of the protection from immunization and the mitigation measures we are taking are the best protection against getting or transmitting this disease."

As of today, here is where we are currently:

- All appointments this week have been filled.
- Number of vaccine doses allocated for this week: 700 doses (500- 1<sup>st</sup> dose, 200- 2<sup>nd</sup> dose)
- Number of vaccine doses administered so far this week: 228 doses
- Total number of vaccine doses received: 5,074 doses
- Total number of vaccine doses administered: 4,602 doses

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 880, Leelanau– 874
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 55, Leelanau– 59
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 795, Leelanau– 800
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 30, Leelanau– 15
- Hospitalized: 127 total; 1 current

The State of Michigan has reported 582,719 cases and 15,396 deaths.

Media Contact:

Rachel Pomeroy, PIO

231-882-6085

[RPomeroy@bldhd.org](mailto:RPomeroy@bldhd.org)

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