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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

February 9, 2021

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

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

The first case of the B.1.1.7 variant in Michigan was discovered downstate in January and several other cases including northern Michigan, have been identified in Michigan since then. The B.1.1.7 variant was first identified in Great Britain and is the result of mutations to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the virus that causes COVID-19. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), early findings show that the B.1.1.7 variant may be associated with an increased risk of death, but more research needs to be done. Research also shows that the B.1.1.7 variant is more easily spread than other variants.

Based on current evidence and tests the vaccines for COVID-19 work against this new variant. Important precautions to protect against COVID include:

- Get vaccinated for COVID-19 when available and eligible.
- Wear a mask covering your nose and mouth when around others.
- Stay six feet apart from others.
- Wash hands often.
- Stay home if you feel sick.
- Ventilate indoor spaces.

"The identification of this variant strain in northern Michigan reminds us that we must continue to take steps to slow the spread of COVID-19 by wearing a mask, staying six feet apart, and avoiding indoor gatherings," stated Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director. "Anyone who has any symptoms or may have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus, either here or during travel, should get tested and quarantine themselves."

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:

- Number of vaccine doses allocated for this week: 960 doses (400- 1st dose, 560- 2nd dose)
- Number of vaccine doses administered this week: 202 doses
- Total number of vaccine doses received: 3,744 doses
- Total number of vaccine doses administered: 2,984 doses

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 859, Leelanau– 844
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 108, Leelanau– 103
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 721, Leelanau– 726
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 30, Leelanau– 15
- Hospitalized: 124 total; 4 current

The State of Michigan has reported 569,980 cases and 14,965 deaths.

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