



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

March 12, 2021

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

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

Scheduling links for next week's COVID-19 vaccination clinics hosted by the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department were compromised today and immediately shut down to prevent further improper self-scheduling of appointments. We have canceled appointments believe to be improperly scheduled and have started scheduling with new scheduling links.

Over the past few weeks, several COVID-19 cases and outbreaks have been reported to the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department in the school population, largely due to sporting events and gatherings outside of school.

"We need the cooperation of students, parents, coaches, and school staff to ensure that anyone who has COVID-19 is able to be promptly tested and isolated if positive as well as close contacts identified and quarantined," said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. "This entire process is imperative in protecting those who remain unvaccinated in our communities – including nearly half of people over 65 and many people with underlying conditions who are at risk for severe disease," Peacock said.

Isolation is for people who are COVID-19 positive. It separates people who are infected with the virus from people who are not infected. It usually lasts 10 days. Quarantine is for people who are well but are exposed to someone who might have been infected. It keeps someone who might have be infected with the virus away from others. It lasts 14 days since the last possible exposure. While the standard 14-day quarantine period remains best practice, quarantine can be reduced to 10 days (except in the case of employment) if the following two conditions exist:

- The individual does not develop any symptoms or clinical evidence of COVID-19 infection during daily symptom monitoring for the 10 days after the last exposure; and
- Daily symptom monitoring continues through day 14 after the last exposure.

For explanations of several scenarios with illustrations of how to calculate the days, see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance on [when to quarantine](#). If you develop symptoms, call the health department at 231-256-0200 or use the [Michigan COVID-19 Test Finder website](#) to schedule a test.

"Deaths and complicated illness have occurred in young people in our area," Peacock said, adding, "It is impossible to predict who might be affected next. Unfortunately, the process of case investigation and contact tracing is entirely dependent on the information shared with us by those we interview. Please know this process is focused on protecting those involved and the community from further spread and associated restrictions and we are depending on full cooperation."

In the last 14 days, from February 26-March 12, the health department reported 71 cases of COVID-19. Information related to these cases includes:

- 23.9% of the cases were 13-19 years old.
- 87.3% of all cases were symptomatic.

Although progress has been made in reduction of hospitalizations, everyone should continue to do important things like wearing a mask, washing hands, avoiding large gatherings, and getting one of the three safe and effective vaccines when it becomes available to you, Peacock said.

As of today, here is where we are currently with the COVID-19 vaccine:

- Number of vaccine doses allocated for next week: 1,228 doses (700- 1st dose, 528- 2nd doses)
- Number of vaccine doses administered so far this week: 1,011 doses
- Total number of vaccine doses received: 7,569 doses
- Total number of vaccine doses administered: 7,510 doses

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 915, Leelanau– 922
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 41, Leelanau– 76
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 843, Leelanau– 831
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 31, Leelanau– 15
- Hospitalized: 133 total; 3 currently

The State of Michigan has reported 605,778 cases and 15,736 deaths.

Media Contact:

Rachel Pomeroy, PIO

231-882-6085

RPomeroy@bldhd.org

###