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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

March 16, 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.

Since December 2020, when COVID-19 vaccination clinics began, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department has administered 7,740 total doses of the vaccine, and over 3.08 million doses have been administered in the state of Michigan.

As of March 14, the health department's vaccination status is as follows:

- Number of vaccine doses administered last week (March 8-14): 1,013 doses.
- Number of vaccine doses distributed to other providers: 342 doses
- Number of vaccine doses allocated for this week: 1,228 doses
- Percent of Benzie and Leelanau county residents who have received their initial dose: 31.1%.
- Percent of Benzie and Leelanau county residents 65 and older who have received their initial dose: 57.8%.

Lisa Peacock, Health Officer, for the health department's jurisdiction of Benzie and Leelanau counties, enthusiastically noted that staff is working through the appointment waiting list. Appointments are currently being scheduled for individuals 50 and older, and eligible essential workers.

"Several factors are helping us reach our eligible populations," she said. "We are thrilled to have over half of our residents age 65 and over who have received at least one dose of vaccine in our two counties. Along with our community partners who are eligible to administer vaccinations, we are making great progress in vaccinating our communities. This is the light at the end of the tunnel we have all been waiting for. We couldn't do it without the support of our community partners and most especially the hundreds of volunteers who have stepped up to help!"

The assurance of a steady allocation of vaccines has allowed the health department to offer more clinics in each of its counties. In addition, more providers have come on board and are serving some of the same population. "We know there are still vulnerable senior populations in some pockets of our counties, and we are focusing outreach efforts to reach them," Peacock said.

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 922, Leelanau– 932
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 47, Leelanau– 80
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 844, Leelanau– 837
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 31, Leelanau– 15
- Hospitalized: 133 total; 0 currently

The State of Michigan has reported 612,628 cases and 15,810 deaths.

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