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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

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The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

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

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department wants area residents to know if you have not registered or been vaccinated yet, now is the time to pre-register for the COVID-19 vaccine! Everyone 16 and older is encouraged to sign up as clinic appointments will be available starting next week.

“We will continue to prioritize people 50 and older, high-risk populations, and essential front-line workers, but we really want to encourage everyone – and I mean everyone! - to pre-register starting now for the COVID-19 vaccine,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “If you haven’t gotten the vaccine, now is the time to sign up,” she added.

Peacock noted that with the number of cases, outbreaks, and hospitalizations rising, there is something every one of us can do. “We can get vaccinated,” she said. “And, if we have done that already, then we can share our knowledge and experience with family and friends who may be hesitant. We can assist someone to schedule an appointment or offer them a ride so they can get their vaccination. We can remind everyone of the freedoms that come with being vaccinated such as being able to gather in homes without a mask and not having to quarantine. We can remind ourselves that widespread vaccination coverage in our communities is the key to driving this virus down. We have to carry the torch the rest of the way so that our businesses can stay open, so our kids can receive a quality education and experience milestones, and so that we can all begin to recover and heal,” Peacock said.

A steady and reliable supply of vaccines has allowed the health department to hold weekly clinics. To sign up for vaccination at the Health Department:

- Visit www.bldhd.org.
- On the main page, click on the [COVID-19 Sign-up vaccine pre-registration link](#) for all priority groups to complete the pre-registration form.
- An automatic email or text will confirm your submission.
- As appointments become available, you will receive a text message or an email with information to schedule an appointment. Please monitor your text messages and email inboxes, including spam/junk mailbox for your confirmation and scheduling messages.
- The Pfizer vaccine has been approved for 16- and 17-year-olds so it is essential to properly fill in the date of birth fields in the pre-registration form for minors so that we can plan for vaccine as well as parent permission.

The type of vaccine available at each health department clinic depends on availability, and clients are not able to select their preferred vaccine (with the exception of minors 16 or 17 years of age who will be registered for a Pfizer vaccination clinic). Anyone with barriers to internet access or other constraints such as transportation can call 2-1-1, the Aging Hotline at 231-715-5557, or their local Senior Services Department.

As of today, here is where we are currently:

- Number of vaccine doses allocated for next week: 1,342 doses.
- Number of vaccine doses administered so far this week: 1,035 doses.
- Total number of vaccine doses distributed to other providers: 452 doses.
- Total number of vaccine doses administered: 9,764 doses.
- Total number of vaccine doses received: 10,423 doses

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 951, Leelanau– 981
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 60, Leelanau– 100
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 860, Leelanau– 866
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 31, Leelanau– 15
- Hospitalized: 136 total; 1 currently

The State of Michigan has reported 642,869 cases and 15,984 deaths.

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