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## PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

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**For Immediate Release**

**March 3, 2021**

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

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

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has announced it is expanding vaccine eligibility starting Monday, March 8 to those 50 years old and above - starting with those who are living with disabilities, medical conditions, caregiver family members, and guardians who care for children with special needs. More information can be found in the [updated prioritization guidance](#).

“We are excited to help our communities bring a quicker end to the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccinate more people,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “Please know that it will take time for us to coordinate making appointments for those currently on our waiting list and these new groups who will be signing up.”

It is important to note that, while supplies are increasing so are the number of individuals eligible to receive the vaccine. Additionally, there remains a limited amount of vaccine available, so there may be a wait period for appointments.

To help guide residents as they sign up for an appointment, the health department is revising its registration process for COVID-19 vaccination clinics through a software program called Patient Education Genius (PEG). Individuals who pre-registered using the health departments initial online form **will not** lose their place in line to receive the vaccine. Anyone who pre-registered *does* not need to complete a new form on the health department’s website but will receive an email or text message from PEG which will ask them to provide updated information. The purpose of collecting this updated information is to align with the updated eligibility definitions. The PEG system will be used to do the following:

- Send the current list of pre-registrants an email to collect more information and update an individual’s priority group and eligibility status.
- Request vaccination status in order to update our list to include only those still needing appointments.
- Provide a tool for future communications, as needed.
- Provide for additional security in the scheduling process.

As of today, here is where we are currently:

- Number of vaccine doses allocated for this week: 1450 doses (1050 1<sup>st</sup> dose, 400- 2<sup>nd</sup> doses)
- Number of vaccine doses administered so far this week: 727 doses
- Total number of vaccine doses received: 6,519 doses
- Total number of vaccine doses administered: 5,796 doses

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 895, Leelanau– 894
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 38, Leelanau– 55
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 827, Leelanau– 824
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 30, Leelanau– 15
- Hospitalized: 130 total; 4 currently

The State of Michigan has reported 591,753 cases and 15,563 deaths.

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