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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

March 5, 2021

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

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

As the State of Michigan has changed [capacity limitations](#) at indoor facilities to allow larger gatherings, it is critical to continue to mask up and socially distance as venues reopen.

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department, and surrounding regions, are seeing an increase in COVID-19 cases, particularly among the school-aged population.

Earlier this week, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) updated two of its epidemic orders, allowing for increased capacity limits at various venues, larger residential and nonresidential gatherings, and expanded visitation opportunities at residential care facilities. Changes are designed to balance reopening while controlling the spread of COVID-19 and save Michiganders' lives.

"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," said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer.

In the last 14 days, the health department has reported 70 cases of COVID-19. Information related to these cases includes:

- 37.14% of the cases were under the age of 20 years old.
- 81.43% of all cases were symptomatic.

The MDHHS capacity changes that went into effect March 2 include:

- Restaurants and bars are allowed to be at 50% capacity up to 100 people. Tables must be six feet apart with no more than six people per table. There is now an 11 p.m. curfew.
- Indoor non-residential gatherings where people interact across households are permitted up to 25 people, allowing public meetings and other small indoor gatherings to resume.
- Outdoor non-residential gatherings where people interact across households are permitted up to 300, allowing larger outdoor events to resume.
- Indoor entertainment venues are allowed to be at 50% capacity, up to 300 people.
- Exercise facilities are allowed to be at 30% capacity with restrictions on distancing and mask requirements.
- Retail is allowed to be at 50% capacity.
- Casinos are allowed to be at 30% capacity.
- Indoor stadiums and arenas are allowed have 375 if seating capacity is under 10,000; 750 if seating capacity is over 10,000.
- Outdoor entertainment and recreational facilities may host up to 1,000 patrons.

Indoor residential gatherings are now limited to 15 people from three households, while outdoor residential gatherings can include up to 50 people.

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

- Number of vaccine doses allocated for next week: 1,050 doses (650 1st dose, 400- 2nd doses)
- Number of vaccine doses administered so far this week: 1,442 doses
- Total number of vaccine doses received: 6,519 doses
- Total number of vaccine doses administered: 6,511 doses

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 898, Leelanau– 898
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 39, Leelanau– 58
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 829, Leelanau– 825
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 30, Leelanau– 15
- Hospitalized: 130 total; 4 currently

The State of Michigan has reported 594,765 cases and 15,610 deaths.

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