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## PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

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**For Immediate Release**

**April 19, 2020**

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

As of 2pm today, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting three positive cases of COVID-19 in Benzie County and eight positive cases in Leelanau County. Once a positive case is reported to us, a case investigation begins which means all identified close contacts of positive cases are contacted and placed in isolation and quarantine as needed. The investigations for the newest cases in both counties are currently in progress. The State of Michigan has reported 31,424 cases and 2,391 deaths.

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department has started reporting probable cases for each count on our [website](#). Probable cases of COVID-19 disease are individuals who have symptoms of COVID-19, but have not been tested, and meet one of the following conditions within the past 14 days: they have been in close contact with a laboratory confirmed case or close contact with another probable case of COVID-19, they have been in close contact with a symptomatic contact of a laboratory confirmed case, have traveled to an area experiencing sustained, ongoing community transmission of COVID-19, or are people within the community who public health authorities consider more likely to be exposed, such as health care workers or people living in group homes.

“We hope that with the recent expansion of testing criteria that providers will begin testing more people. We have always mentioned that as testing increases, our positive case numbers will likely increase, too,” shared Josh Meyerson, Medical Director. “We know an increase in local case count can be scary, however, with expanded testing criteria and the reporting of probable cases we will have a better sense of where COVID-19 is and how it could be spreading in our communities.”

Additional and updated information can be found on our [Website](#) and [Facebook](#) or by calling our public information line 231-882-2197. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has a statewide hotline for COVID-19. Public health and other experts will answer health-related questions about COVID-19. The hotline will be open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1-888-535-6136.

We appreciate the dedication of all critical infrastructure workers – please join us in protecting them by staying home, only leaving for essential needs when absolutely necessary.

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