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## PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

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**For Immediate Release**

**April 20, 2020**

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

As of 2pm today, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting four positive cases of COVID-19 in Benzie County and seven positive cases in Leelanau County. We learned today that MDHHS mistakenly reported a positive case yesterday in Leelanau County which has since been determined to be pending. 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 Health Department has recorded 144 individuals tested with 32 pending results. The State of Michigan has reported 32,000 cases and 2,468 deaths.

With a recent case investigation, it has been difficult to determine individual's history of visits to public places within the community, especially specific dates and times. However, several contacts of a recently reported positive case have disclosed that they shop frequently at Shop-N-Save in Benzonia. We remind the public that casual contact such as walking by someone with COVID-19 does not necessarily indicate an exposure has occurred. We want to stress the risk that exists for each of us anytime we visit public places in the current situation. We remind everyone to stay home, going out only when necessary for essential needs, and to use a face covering when out in public. Anyone with even mild symptoms of illness should NOT go out at all.

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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