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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

April 22, 2021

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

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

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is asking residents to spread the word – COVID-19 vaccinations are safe, effective, and available!

“We continue to make progress with vaccinations, with 59.4% of Benzie and Leelanau residents with their first dose. However, this means we have a large number of residents unvaccinated,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “Getting vaccinated is the safest way to keep our students learning in-person, for safer gatherings this summer, to keep our businesses open and allow our economy to thrive,” she exclaimed.

The health department recognizes that residents may have family, friends, or neighbors that might be hesitant or have questions about the vaccines and the post vaccination experience. Those who have been vaccinated have the opportunity to be a voice for vaccination, we all play a role in reaching the health department's goal of vaccinating at least 70% of our population over the age of 16!

“If we stick together, we can do this! Taking the necessary precautions to reduce transmission including masking, distancing, testing, as well as widespread community vaccination, can drive the reduction of COVID-19 in our communities and allow for the enjoyment of summer and all of the milestones, interactions, and celebrations we have all been missing,” Peacock said.

To support conversations among friends, family and community members, the health department has released a [document](#) to enhance and encourage discussion about COVID-19 vaccinations in a safe and positive manner. It is important that anyone discussing COVID-19 vaccinations reference trusted and reputable sources, only discussing the facts that you know.

First dose clinics hosted by the health department for this and next week are listed at www.bldhd.org. Individuals can choose their appointment location, date, and time (based on availability) by clicking on the link listed with their preferred clinic. Anyone needing assistance to make an appointment should call 2-1-1 or their Senior Services Center. Walk-in appointments are available, and residents can look for signage indicating walk-ins are welcome the day of a clinic.

The health department is hosting a free, rapid COVID-19 testing event on April 26. Pre-registration is encouraged, but not required. The clinic will run from 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. at Suttons Bay Old Middle School Gymnasium in Suttons Bay (310 310 S Elm St, Suttons Bay, MI 49682). To pre-register, visit: <http://honumg.info/OldSuttonsBayMS>.

As of April 21st, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting the following:

- Number of vaccine doses allocated for this week: 1,970 doses.
- Number of vaccine doses administered so far this week: 835 doses.
- Total number of vaccine doses distributed to other providers: 1,014 doses.
- Total number of vaccine doses administered: 14,725 doses.
- Total number of vaccine doses received: 16,816 doses.

As of 4:00 p.m. today, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting:

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,144, Leelanau– 1,183
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 184, Leelanau– 202
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 929, Leelanau– 965
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 31, Leelanau– 16
- Hospitalized: 147 total; 4 currently

The State of Michigan is reporting 809,591 cases and 17,139 deaths.

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