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## PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

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**For Immediate Release**

**April 23, 2020**

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

As of 2pm today, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting no additional case of COVID-19. Total case counts are four positive cases of COVID-19 in Benzie County and eight positive cases in Leelanau County. The health department is currently monitoring and assisting approximately 30 contacts to positive cases. We continue to identify and reach out to people who may have been exposed to any positive cases of COVID-19. The Health Department is reporting 171 tested and 28 pending. The State of Michigan has reported 35,291 cases and 2,977 deaths.

This week we have seen the Governor discussing several topics of importance including expanded testing, re-engagement strategies, and the needs of people living in congregate living settings including long-term care facilities. The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is also very focused on these priorities locally. We know that expanded testing will provide us with needed data to implement immediate protective measures but will also help to build the picture of COVID-19 in our communities. The testing data tells us more about who may be most vulnerable, how many people have recovered, and helps us to monitor whether cases are increasing or decreasing. We are also proactively reaching out to our congregate living settings, including long-term care facilities, to provide support for them in protecting their residents and staff. As we develop plans for expanded testing, these groups will remain a very high priority.

Health Officer, Lisa Peacock, stated “ We are encouraged by the news that case rates are starting to slow in some areas of Michigan but we also know that some of our northern Michigan counties have just begun to test more widely and so we remain committed to social distancing even as re-engagement plans are made. We know that relaxing restrictions too soon could result in a 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of this pandemic that could set us back and could potentially be even worse than the 1<sup>st</sup>.”

If you think you may have been exposed to COVID-19 or if you have symptoms, call your health care provider. If you do not have a health care provider, call the Munson hotline at 231-935-0951.

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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