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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

April 24, 2020

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

Governor Whitmer extended the “Stay Home, Stay Safe” executive order to May 15, 2020. The new order requires people to wear homemade face coverings when they enter enclosed public spaces. It also lifts some restrictions on outdoor activities and allows some workers who perform previously suspended activities to go back to work. Landscapers, lawn-service companies, golf courses, and nurseries are among the groups that can return to work, subject to strict social distancing. [Full executive order.](#)

“It is important for our residents to adhere to the guidelines added to the Governor’s updated Stay Home, Stay Safe executive order, by wearing a mask or homemade face covering any time they are in an enclosed public space,” shared Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “We are excited to see the initial phase of re-engagement begin as allowed with this new executive order. However, businesses, employees, and residents must continue taking all necessary precautions to prevent a second wave of COVID-19 in our communities and health care systems.”

As of 2pm today, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting no additional cases 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 multiple 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 201 tested and 40 pending. The State of Michigan has reported 36,641 cases and 3,085 deaths.

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 or Northwest Michigan Health Service, Inc (NMHSI) at 231-642-5292. NMHSI has expanded their testing site hours, Monday- Thursday 9am-noon and 1-4pm and Friday 9-11:30am.

We remind our residents that there may be a lot of information circulating that may not be accurate or advisable. Just a friendly reminder, please do not ingest household cleaning products. Ingesting household cleaning products is very dangerous. We encourage residents to reference the [CDC](#) and [State of Michigan](#) websites for the most current and accurate information regarding COVID-19.

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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