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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

April 27, 2020

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department has re-issued our Public Health Emergency Order through May 15th, 2020 at 11:59 pm to ensure the safety of our residents and critical infrastructure workers. Please find the new Public Health Emergency Order 2020-3 attached [here](#) and replace all copies of 2020-1 with this updated document.

We have received questions from concerned residents regarding travel and visitors to our region. Executive Order 2020-59 allows individuals to travel in the following circumstances, to return to a home or place of residence from outside this state, to leave this state for a home or residence elsewhere, or between two residences in this state, including moving to a new residence. All other travel is prohibited, including travel to vacation rentals.

Dr. Josh Meyerson, Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department Medical Director shared, “we understand that with warmer temperatures many of our seasonal neighbors will want to return to Northern Michigan. We continue to ask that all of our residents adhere to the Executive Order and our local Public Health Emergency Order in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.”

As outlined in the local [Public Health Advisory](#), the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department, in addition to the Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance, advises that additional precautions are necessary if you choose to travel between residences. This includes self-quarantine for 14 days upon arrival in northern Michigan. There are many community resources available to assist our residents in staying comfortable at home. Please call 211 or our Public Health Information Line at 1-231-882-2197 for assistance.

We have also received many questions regarding positive cases and travel risks. We want our residents to know that few of our recent cases are due to travel and most are related to contact with others within our own communities. This reminds us of the risk that exists for all of us right here at home and the importance of continued compliance with the Governor’s Executive Orders as well as all local advisories and orders. Please continue to minimize errands to those which are essential and use a face covering when out in public.

As of 2pm today, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting four positive cases of COVID-19 in Benzie County and nine positive cases in Leelanau County. The Health Department has recorded 222 individuals tested with 35 pending results. The State of Michigan has reported 38,210 cases and 3,407 deaths.

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.

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