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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

April 8, 2021

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

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

With the increase in COVID-19 cases in the state and across northern Michigan, you might not hear from the health department right away, so residents are being asked to help take mitigating measures to help stop the spread of the virus and get tested if you are experiencing symptoms.

Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department in partnership with Honu Lab and MDHHS is bringing free [rapid COVID-19 testing](#) to Leelanau County. The drive-through event will be held at the Suttons Bay Middle School on Monday 12th and will provide rapid and PCR testing. The free event is open to the public and there is no cost and no doctor's order required.

"We are working very hard to reach out to anyone who has tested positive and trace those they may have come into contact with but with case counts sharply rising, it is very difficult to ensure people are contacted in a timely way," said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. "We are shifting staff responsibilities in order to meet the demand for case investigation and contract tracing and are still being strained by new cases every day, so we are asking individuals to take these precautionary measures until we are able to call."

If anyone is notified by a lab or any other provider that they have tested positive for COVID-19, they need to take these steps:

1. [Isolate](#) right away for ten days from the start of your symptoms or from the date your test was taken if you aren't having symptoms. Isolation keeps someone who is infected with the virus away from others, even in their home.
2. Notify your close contacts so they can start to [quarantine](#) themselves. Close contacts are people who are within 6 feet or less of the person who tested positive for COVID-19 for a cumulative 15 minutes in a 24-hour period. Close contacts should quarantine for 14 days from the last contact with the COVID-19 positive person.
3. You can resume normal activities when it has been 10 days since symptoms began or, if you don't have symptoms, 10 days since your positive test date, AND you have been fever-free for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medication, AND other symptoms like cough or shortness of breath have improved.
4. You can be vaccinated after the completion of your isolation or quarantine period as long as you are feeling better. Please click [here](#) to pre-register for scheduling your vaccination after your recovery.

If you test positive for COVID or you've been exposed, it is important to watch for a call or text with directions from health department case investigators and contract tracers or Michigan Department of Health and Human Services contract tracers. "Even if you do not receive a call or text right away, it is important that you immediately take steps to get the care you need and avoid giving COVID to people around you," Peacock said.

Information about potential or actual exposure to COVID and contact tracing is available [here](#). For steps you should take while you wait for your COVID-19 results to protect your family, friends, and community, click [here](#). If you test positive for COVID, click [here](#) for a flyer detailing the steps you should take.

As of today, here is where we are currently:

- Number of vaccine doses allocated for this week: 1,310 doses
- Number of vaccine doses administered so far this week: 1,038 doses
- Total number of vaccine doses distributed to other providers: 934 doses
- Total number of vaccine doses administered: 12,355 doses
- Total number of vaccine doses received: 13,382 doses

As of 4:00pm, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting:

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,013, Leelanau– 1,062
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 98, Leelanau– 137
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 884, Leelanau– 909
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 31, Leelanau– 16
- Hospitalized: 137 total; 1 currently

The State of Michigan has reported 723,297 cases and 16,400 deaths.

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