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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

May 10, 2021

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

Today there was one new case of COVID-19 reported in Benzie County and one new case of COVID-19 reported in Leelanau County. The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department has reported zero new cases on Saturday and Sunday.

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department has modified its 14-day quarantine recommendation to 10-days due to recently decreasing trends in new cases and outbreaks. The Health Department stands by this continued recommendation of a 10-day quarantine for those with close contact to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 as one of the most important strategies in protecting the community from COVID-19, especially our most vulnerable citizens. Information on steps you should take if you test positive for COVID-19, including isolation and quarantine instructions are [available here](#).

Recently, there has been a great deal of public attention and media coverage directed to the topic of student quarantine after close contact with confirmed or probable COVID-19 cases. In a memo sent today to superintendents in Benzie and Leelanau counties, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department reiterated it stands behind the MDHHS and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for schools to prevent the spread of COVID-19 as well as the 10-day quarantine for close contacts. In addition, health officials stated that, at this time, they are not issuing local orders requiring quarantine of students exposed to COVID-19.

Lisa Peacock, Health Officer, said, "We have never wavered in our advice for area schools and our support for their efforts in mitigating the risk of COVID-19 remains steadfast. Our strong recommendation for quarantine rather than requirement by local order also aligns with our typical approach in protecting the public's health and has not changed," she said. "We appreciate the vast cooperation of families and schools across our region throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We believe quarantine of close contacts continues to be a critical tool in preventing the spread of illness, especially to vulnerable community members," she added.

The health department still recommends local school districts follow the health department's recommendations and guidelines for quarantine as they represent best practices for the protection of area children, teachers, and staff and the prevention of outbreaks in the school setting.

"As vaccination levels increase, and more local adolescents are able to add the extra layer of protection, it is our hope that transmission rates will drop considerably in the future," said Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director. "We continue to monitor our local data, and should any changes occur that need immediate attention we will take the necessary action for the health and safety of students, staff, and all residents," he said.

Did you get your COVID-19 vaccine outside Michigan? Add your COVID-19 Vaccine to your official Michigan Immunization Record by doing one of the following:

- Fill out our HIPPA Complaint [Survey](#)
- Stop by our office and we'll make a copy of your Vaccine card.
- Ask your doctor to enter your vaccine.

The health department is offering walk-in vaccinations or people can make an appointment at www.bldhd.org. Additional vaccination sites can be found at vaccines.gov. Residents can choose the date and location for their appointment.

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is offering five clinics this week,

- **Tuesday, May 11th**
 - Trinity Lutheran Frankfort, 955 James St, Frankfort, MI 49635
 - Time: 9:00- 2:45pm
 - Vaccine: Moderna and Johnson and Johnson's Janssen
 - To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

- **Wednesday, May 12th**
 - Suttons Bay Old Middle School Gymnasium, 310 S. Elm Street, Suttons Bay
 - Time: 11:00- 6pm
 - Vaccine: Moderna, Janssen, and Pfizer (open to 16 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
 - To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)
- **Thursday, May 13th**
 - Frankfort High School Gymnasium, 534 11th St, Frankfort, MI 49635
 - Time: 1:00- 5:45pm
 - Vaccine: Moderna, Janssen, and Pfizer (open to 16 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
 - To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)
- **Friday, May 14th**
 - Glen Lake School Gymnasium, 3375 W Burdickville Rd, Maple City, MI 49664
 - Time: 1:00- 5:45pm
 - Vaccine: Moderna, Janssen, and Pfizer (open to 16 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
 - To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)
- **Saturday, May 15th**
 - Benzie Central Gymnasium, 9222 Homestead Rd, Benzonia, MI 49616
 - Time: 10:00- 12:00pm
 - Vaccine: Moderna, Janssen, and Pfizer (open to 16 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
 - To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Our next scheduled pop-up clinic will take place in Benzie County this Saturday, May 15th at St. Ambrose Cellars in Beulah from 1-4pm. Pop-up clinic are offering Johnson and Johnson's Janssen and Moderna vaccine.

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,226, Leelanau– 1,231
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 149, Leelanau– 101
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,045, Leelanau– 1,114
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 32, Leelanau– 16
- Hospitalized: 154 total; 3 currently

The State of Michigan is reporting 865,349 cases and 18,239 deaths.

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