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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

May 13, 2021

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

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

Yesterday, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) unanimously recommended the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for adolescents 12-15 years of age. The health department welcomes adolescents 12-17, accompanied by a parent/guardian, to any clinic offering the Pfizer vaccine. The health department is offering walk-in vaccinations at all their clinics or people can make an appointment. Residents can choose the date and location, and at certain clinics which of the three safe and effective vaccines they want to receive. Information on clinic locations and to make an appointment is available at www.bldhd.org.

“The vaccine is safe and highly effective and provides our children excellent protection against COVID disease,” said Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director with the health department. “The results of the clinical trials show that our younger adolescents, 12-15, had very similar responses in fighting off COVID-19 compared to older adolescents and adults. Side effects such as soreness at the injection site and low-grade fevers were the most common side effects and were generally mild and well tolerated,” said Dr. Meyerson, a board-certified pediatrician since 1995 who has cared for infants and children for over 25 years.

In April, about 24% of the 425 reported cases in Benzie and Leelanau Counties were in the 0–19 year old age group, with the majority being related to school age children. “Although, thankfully, most children who become sick with COVID have mild symptoms, many have reported illness for several days and unfortunately some have required hospital care,” Dr. Meyerson said. “In addition, we know that adolescents, even with no or mild symptoms, are contagious and spread can occur to those around them both socially and in their households.

“I recommend every parent consider getting their children 12 and older fully protected,” Dr. Meyerson stated. “It will greatly reduce their risk of getting sick from COVID and will keep them from having to miss many days of school, sports, and summer activities due to the need to isolate and quarantine.”

Dr. Meyerson recommends parents talk to their child’s doctor or look for helpful information to answer any questions they may have by visiting reputable websites such as the [health department](#), their local hospitals, or other trusted sources such as immunize.org.

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.

Upcoming clinics for walk-ins or to make a reservation by clicking on the link provided include:

- **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- 1:00pm
 - 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– 1,234, Leelanau– 1,241
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 119, Leelanau– 87
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,083, Leelanau– 1,138
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 32, Leelanau– 16
- Hospitalized: 157 total; 4 currently

The State of Michigan is reporting 871,569 cases and 18,467 deaths.

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