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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release
May 18th, 2020

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

Today, Governor Whitmer announced in [Emergency Order 2020-92](#) that regions 6 and 8 have moved to phase four in [MI Safe Start Plan](#). Starting Friday, May 22nd, 2020, phase four allows retail, restaurants, bars, and offices to open with strict safety measures. With the holiday weekend coming up, we would like to urge our residents to practice safe measures like wearing their mask and proper social distancing. Face coverings (such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief) must be used when in any enclosed public space.

"This is an exciting step for our region that we have all been anticipating, especially as we look forward to the upcoming holiday weekend," shared Josh Meyerson, Medical Director. "Although there is a risk to anyone when they are in a public space, the highest risk of infection occurs when someone is in close contact with an infectious person for a significant amount of time. This is why businesses, employees, and customers must continue taking all necessary precautions to protect one another from transmission of COVID-19 as they enjoy these public spaces again."

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department has updated the business toolkit to reflect the updates as well as incorporated changes from Executive Orders 2020-92. This toolkit is intended to provide helpful information to assist businesses who are currently operating to implement the required safety precautions included in these orders and is available [here](#). We anticipate continually updating our business and other toolkits and resources so please check our website frequently at www.bldhd.org for new additions.

As of 2pm today, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting one additional case in Leelanau County. The case investigation and contact tracing for the newly reported case is currently in progress. Total case counts are now four positive cases of COVID-19 in Benzie County and eleven positive cases in Leelanau County. The State of Michigan has reported 51,915 cases and 4,915 deaths.

Visit our COVID-19 Data Dashboard for the latest local information including recovered data and contact tracing: [BLDHD COVID-19 Dashboard](#). 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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