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## PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

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**For Immediate Release**  
**May 21, 2021**

### **The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update**

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

Officials with the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department see signs of hope as vaccination rates rise, pandemic risk indicators trend downward, and the governor is lifting capacity limits for outdoor events beginning June 1. Additionally, indoor capacity limits will increase to 50%, allowing indoor social gatherings such as weddings and funerals to move closer to normalcy. As of July 1, the governor announced yesterday that the state will no longer limit capacity at indoor or outdoor gatherings.

In her announcement yesterday, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer indicated that the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) will likely release an updated epidemic order early next week, reflecting these changes. Throughout the month of June, people who are not yet fully vaccinated will still be required to mask up while indoors.

To align with the downward trending of cases and positivity, the upward trend of vaccination rates, as well as the new guidance and orders issued by state and national authorities, effective immediately, Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department's Health Officer Lisa Peacock is lifting the [Public Health Advisory](#) that was issued on November 23, 2020.

To reach all residents in all corners of the two-county jurisdiction, the health department continues to branch out into neighborhoods with pop-up clinics. Anyone 12 and over can walk into a clinic for a vaccination, although minors need to attend a Pfizer clinic and be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Across northern Michigan, residents have been working hard towards a return to normalcy yet may find themselves somewhat confused by the mask-or-no-mask quandary, and exactly what rules and guidelines apply and when. Although it's a time of hope, it is also a time of patience and understanding, health officials say.

"As we begin to see more people out in public without a mask, it is understandable that this brings feelings of joy and hope to some but feelings of anxiety and uncertainty to others," said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. "It is another time of transition where patience with each other is critical. The stress of transition is something familiar yet still difficult as everyone navigates this uncertainty. However, this is a time of hope and we can and should focus on the things that we know: daily cases and positivity are currently decreasing steadily across the nation, state, and region; the COVID vaccine is widely available for everyone ages 12 and up and all three formulations are safe and effective; and finally, being fully vaccinated now brings certain freedoms including no longer needing to mask or distance in most situations, no need for disruptive quarantine after exposure to COVID, reduced need for testing and relief from travel restrictions!" Peacock explained.

Although things are looking up, Peacock noted we are not completely out of the woods yet. "Not everyone across the globe is experiencing the widespread vaccination coverage we are seeing in the United States and new variants of the virus continue to emerge in different areas," she said. "However, it is critical now to keep our eyes on the clear goal of vaccinating as many people as possible. This is our most powerful tool in protecting all of us from new variants and continued transmission which leads to cases, outbreaks, hospitalizations, and deaths."

The health department is offering multiple opportunities for walk-in vaccinations as well as easy appointment scheduling that can be found at [www.bldhd.org](http://www.bldhd.org). Additional vaccination sites can be found at [vaccines.gov](http://vaccines.gov). Residents can choose the date and location for their appointment. In addition, our vaccination teams can be found in multiple locations around our communities holding small pop-up clinics which offer multiple vaccine choices with no appointment needed!

Information about upcoming pop-up and weekly clinics can be found below:

- **Tuesday, May 25th**
  - Crystal Mountain, 12500 Crystal Mountain Dr. Thompsonville, Michigan 49683
    - 9am-11:25am
    - Vaccine: Moderna, Pfizer, and Janssen (open to 12 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
    - To schedule an appointment: [Click here](#)
  - Benzie Area Christian Neighbors, 2804 Benzie Hwy, Benzonia, MI 49616
    - Pop-up clinic, walk-ins welcome
    - Time 10:00-12:00pm
    - Vaccine: Moderna, Pfizer, and J&J (open to 12 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
  - Suttons Bay Middle School Gymnasium, 310 S. Elm Street, Suttons Bay, MI 49682
    - Time: 12:00-6:00pm
    - Vaccine: Moderna, Pfizer, and J&J (open to 12 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
    - To schedule an appointment: [Click here](#)
- **Thursday, May 27th**
  - Crystal Cafe, 1681 Benzie Hwy, Benzonia, MI 49616
    - Time: 10:00- 6:00pm
    - Vaccine: Moderna, Pfizer, and J&J (open to 12 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
    - To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,240, Leelanau– 1,252
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 89, Leelanau– 69
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,119, Leelanau– 1,167
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 32, Leelanau– 16
- Hospitalized: 158 total; 2 currently

The State of Michigan is reporting 882,189 cases and 18,853 deaths.

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