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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

June 17, 2021

New variant is another reason to get vaccinated.

The Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus has reached the United States including cases in Michigan and poses a threat to those who are not vaccinated. It's another reason to get vaccinated, health officials say.

The Delta variant, which was first detected in India, now accounts for close to 10% of all infections in the United States, according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov), which states that it is a variant of concern due to being even more contagious than previous variants that have circulated here.

"The good news is that recent studies show that the current vaccines are effective against this new and emerging variant as well as others that have spread across the country," said Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director for the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department. "If you are fully vaccinated – meaning two weeks post receiving your second vaccination of either Pfizer or Moderna or two weeks after the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine – you are well protected from getting sick from COVID," Dr. Meyerson said.

"Vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and stop this variant from spreading and becoming dominant in the U.S. or reaching our communities in northern Michigan," he added. "We need to continue to get doses in arms to mitigate the spread of this variant and new variants in the future," he said.

The health department continues to offer regular vaccination clinics throughout the two-county jurisdiction. As vaccine rates rise and demand decreases, we have made some adjustments to our weekly schedule. Starting on June 23rd, the Benzie County clinic at Crystal Cafe will move to Wednesdays. Please look carefully at the website for information as clinic times will be reduced and additional popup clinics will be scheduled as community need indicates. Public health nurses are on site at these events and able to answer any questions that residents may have regarding the vaccines. All clinics are open to walk-ins or people can register by clicking on the clinic link below:

- **Tuesday, June 22nd**
 - Suttons Bay Middle School Gymnasium, 310 S. Elm Street, Suttons Bay, MI 49682
 - Time: 10:00-12:00pm
 - Vaccine: Moderna, Janssen, and Pfizer (open to 12 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
 - To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)
- **Wednesday, June 23rd**
 - Crystal Cafe, 1681 Benzie Hwy, Benzonia, MI 49616
 - Time: 4:00- 6:00pm
 - Vaccine: Moderna, Janssen, and Pfizer (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– 1,257, Leelanau– 1,260
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 21, Leelanau– 14
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,202, Leelanau– 1,230
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 34, Leelanau– 16
- Hospitalized: 160 total; 0 currently

The State of Michigan is reporting 893,002 cases and 19,598 deaths.

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