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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release
July 19, 2021

Health department continues to focus on regions with lower COVID-19 vaccination rates

The number of residents 16 and older vaccinated against COVID-19 in the two-county jurisdiction of the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is strong, yet certain “pockets” of our counties have lower vaccination rates, and these pockets are a priority for health department outreach efforts.

“This is our 32nd week of COVID-19 vaccine clinics in the two-county jurisdiction and we have held clinics in many of our communities, but there are still some areas that are lagging behind,” said Michelle Klein, Director of Personal Health. “We continue to offer COVID vaccine in Suttons Bay and Benzonia as well as in our health department immunization clinics. Some days we may administer only one or two dozen vaccines at these small clinics, but we consider every shot an opportunity to protect another person or family,” she said, noting the vaccine has been approved for anyone 12 and older.

Currently, 72.4% of all residents 16 and older in Benzie and Leelanau counties have received one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Just over 69% of that same age group have completed the series – meaning they have received two doses of the vaccine (Pfizer and Moderna are a two-dose vaccine while J&J is one-dose). And some census tract areas of the region have a whopping 90%-plus of their residents covered!

The health department uses data about vaccine rates within zip codes to identify areas with lower rates so that we can determine if there are barriers to receiving vaccine that we can address. The accompanying map and key of 16 years and older with one dose of COVID-19 vaccine from the University of Michigan’s Lighthouse COVID-19 data map is one source of data that helps identify communities we prioritize for our outreach efforts. The light green areas on the [Lighthouse COVID-19 data map](#) are the zip codes with lower vaccine rates and are therefore areas of focus for our efforts.

Everyone is welcome at all health department clinics, including residents and non-residents. All three vaccines are available. Minors must be accompanied by a parent/legal guardian. Public health nurses are on site at these events and able to answer any questions about the vaccines. All clinics are open to walk-ins or an appointment can be scheduled by clicking on the clinic link below:

- **Tuesday, July 20th**
 - 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, July 21st**
 - 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– 1,261, Leelanau– 1,266
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 3, Leelanau– 6
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,224, Leelanau– 1,244
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 34, Leelanau– 16
- Hospitalized: 161 total; 1 currently

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