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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

July 1, 2021

COVID cases lower but now is time for teens to get vaccinated.

Although cases of COVID-19 are trending lower in the two-county jurisdiction of the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department, officials continue to urge parents of teens and pre-teens, among those currently with the lowest vaccination rates, to get the shot.

According to a recent [CDC presentation on COVID-19 case data](#), since the beginning of the pandemic at least 7.7 million COVID-19 cases have been reported among persons aged 12–29 years. Adolescents and young adults have the highest COVID-19 incidence rates and are an increasing proportion of the COVID-19 cases reported, CDC data shows. While more older adults are vaccinated, the adolescents and young adults make up a greater percentage of total cases. As noted, [in the CDC data](#), 33% of cases reported in May 2021 were among persons aged 12–29 years.

“Within our jurisdiction of Benzie and Leelanau counties, 70.3% of residents aged 12 and older have at least one dose of the vaccine, which is telling us there is still progress to be made,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “We are working to reach our residents by reducing barriers to getting vaccinated, continuing community clinics and offering appointment times outside of 8-5 business hours. As the population in our region continues to increase this summer, there is no better time to get vaccinated. If you have questions about the vaccines, speak to your primary care physician, call our health department at 231-882-2197, or call Munson’s Ask-A-Nurse phone line at 231-935-0951” Peacock added.

Since the beginning of pandemic, the [CDC has reported](#) 2,767 COVID-19 deaths among persons aged 12-29 years; 316 of the deaths have been reported since April 1, 2021. Vaccination of students offers an added layer of protection against COVID-19 and can be an important tool to return to "normal" especially for those going back to school in the fall. Higher levels of vaccination coverage can lead to less community transmission, which can protect against development and circulation of emerging variants.

In reviewing case data from recent weeks, Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department officials are sharing information regarding data trends from cases reported during June 1 – 30:

- In the last week, 0-1 new case per day have been reported in Benzie and Leelanau counties.
- Of the 13 total cases reported from June 1-30
 - 0% reported being fully vaccinated.
 - 38.5% of cases were 65 years or older, an age group with 84.9% fully vaccinated, and
 - 53.8% of cases were 20-39 years or older, an age group with 55.5% fully vaccinated.

The health department continues to offer regular vaccination clinics throughout the two-county jurisdiction. 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, July 6th**
 - 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 7th**
 - 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– 1,258, Leelanau– 1,260
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 5, Leelanau– 0
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,219, Leelanau– 1,244
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 34, Leelanau– 16
- Hospitalized: 160 total; 0 currently

The State of Michigan is reporting 894,856 cases and 19,758 deaths.

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