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## PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

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**For Immediate Release**

**July 26, 2021**

### **Delta variant spreading, vaccination is the best protection**

The COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, but health officials also acknowledge vaccine breakthrough cases are expected.

A [vaccine breakthrough infection](#) is defined as the detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA or antigen in a respiratory specimen collected from a person at least two weeks after completing their second dose of Pfizer or Moderna or their single dose of Johnson and Johnson “Janssen” vaccine.

The COVID-19 vaccines are a critical tool to bring the pandemic under control. While current vaccines appear to offer strong protection against circulating COVID-19 strains, including the Delta variant, there is currently no vaccine that is 100% effective at preventing illness, said officials with the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department. There will be a small percentage of fully vaccinated people who still get sick, hospitalized, or die from COVID-19, but the risk is much greater for those who are unvaccinated, they emphasized. The more opportunity COVID-19 has to spread, the more likely variants will cause illness in vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.

“Although our two-county jurisdiction has not yet reported the Delta variant, the variant is in our northern Michigan region,” said Dr. Meyerson, Medical Director. “This variant is much more transmissible, and we want to ensure that our residents continue to take precautions to protect themselves, their loved ones, and local businesses from the virus,” he added.

“With residents and visitors traveling in and out of our region, we must be reminded that our greatest protection right now is through vaccination. Getting vaccinated is the extra layer of protection that decreases likelihood of severe illness, hospitalization, and death due to this virus,” Dr. Meyerson said.

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 27th**

- 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 28th**

- 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– 1,270, Leelanau– 1,274
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 10, Leelanau– 14
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,226, Leelanau– 1,244
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 34, Leelanau– 16
- Hospitalized: 162 total; 2 currently

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