



Benzie County Office
6051 Frankfort Hwy, Ste 100
Benzonia, MI 49616

Phone: 231-882-4409
Fax: 231-882-0143

www.bldhd.org

Leelanau County Office
7401 E. Duck Lake Rd
Lake Leelanau, MI 49653

Phone: 231-256-0200
Fax: 231-882-0143

PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

August 12, 2021

Tool lets public arm themselves with COVID-19 data

As COVID-19 cases continue to rise in the region, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is urging residents and visitors to follow the latest guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and arm themselves with information to make informed decisions about their health.

Due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases – largely due to the Delta variant – the CDC recently changed its mask wearing and testing recommendations. The CDC now recommends:

- Anyone who is exposed as close contact, regardless of vaccination status, be tested 3-5 days after exposure. To locate testing information, visit the [Michigan COVID-19 Test Finder](#) website, or call the health department at 231-256-0200.
- All students and adults in K-12 schools wear a mask indoors, regardless of vaccination status.
- All people in areas where transmission levels are substantial or high wear a mask when indoors, regardless of vaccination status.

“Vaccination is our most powerful tool, and we need to get more people vaccinated,” said Lisa Peacock said, Health Officer. “We need a high number of people vaccinated in order to drive down COVID-19 and its mutants. If this virus can find a vulnerable host, it will move from person-to-person, mutate, and continue to spread,” Peacock said. “Getting vaccinated is the answer to stopping this virus and keeping our children in schools, our businesses open, and our community healthy.”

The state of Michigan has a dashboard called [MI Safe Start Map](#) which is designed to monitor the status of COVID-19 indicators across the state of Michigan. The dashboard tracks and displays the current risk level of Michigan regions and counties due to COVID-19. The goals are twofold:

- To assist public health officials in making state, regional, and county-level decisions related to COVID-19;
- To provide the general public with insight into indicators that affect these public health decisions.

The CDC has also updated their [COVID-19 data tracker](#), providing a deeper look into cases, hospital utilization, vaccinations and more at the county level.

“These are great tools to inform the public about COVID-19 statistics in our region (labeled Traverse City Region on the MI Safe Start Map) such as rate of infections, hospitalizations, deaths, and more,” Peacock noted.

Everyone is welcome at all health department clinics, including residents and non-residents. All three COVID-19 vaccines are available at every clinic. 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, August 17th

- 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, August 18th

- 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](#)

COVID-19 Case Counts

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting the following case information:

- On Tuesday, August 10, 3 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (3), and Leelanau (0).
- On Wednesday, August 11, 2 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (1), and Leelanau (1).
- Today, August 12, 3 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (3) and Leelanau (0).

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,288, Leelanau– 1,302
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 26, Leelanau– 36
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,228, Leelanau– 1,250
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 34, Leelanau– 16
- Hospitalized: 169 total; 3 currently

Media Contact:

Rachel Pomeroy, PIO

231-882-6085

RPomeroy@bldhd.org

###