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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

August 17, 2020

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

Today there was one new case of COVID-19 identified in Leelanau County. The case investigation is in progress. Benzie County decreased by one due to a change in address. Four total cases (Leelanau- 2; Benzie- 2) have been reported since Saturday, August 15th. The information known at this time is below:

- Age:
 - 0-19 years – 2 cases
 - 60-69 years – 1 case
 - 70-79 years – 1 case
- Residents – 4 new cases
- Symptomatic – 100% of cases
- Newly Recovered – 10 cases (Leelanau- 5; Benzie- 5)
- Potential low-risk public exposure locations for new cases where close contacts may not have been able to be identified include:
 - No new exposure sites

Throughout the region, health departments have been reporting more exposure sites. Health Departments identify these as sites of possible low-risk exposure when an individual who tested positive reports they were present at a location during their symptomatic period or 48 hours prior to their COVID-19 test and may have been there for 15 minutes or more and been within 6 feet of others that can't be identified. They often report having taken necessary safety measures, such as masking, distancing, and hand hygiene and therefore these are categorized as low risk sites for exposure. We report these sites in the spirit of transparency and raising awareness that COVID-19 is spreading around our communities, and to suggest that individuals who were present at the same locations during the times we list should self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19. Symptoms may appear between 2-14 days after exposure. Individuals who are self-monitoring due to potential low risk exposure in a public site should:

- Be aware that symptoms of COVID-19 could indicate possible infection. Symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, may include other symptoms such as fatigue, loss of taste and smell, and diarrhea.
- Record any symptoms that appear and include the date of onset
- If you develop symptoms, seek testing.
- If tested, you should isolate until results have been returned

“As always, anyone who has been identified as a close contact by the person testing positive will be contacted directly by the Health Department”, states, Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “Being present at a low risk public site doesn't increase the individual risk more than being present anywhere in the general public while we are experiencing community spread but we feel that sharing this information does help to raise general awareness of the presence of COVID-19 in our communities.”

As of 4:00pm, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is reporting:

- Positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 33, Leelanau– 71
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 21, Leelanau– 52
- Hospitalized: 13 total; 2 current
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 1

The State of Michigan has reported 93,185 cases and 6,325 deaths.

Visit our [COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#) for the latest local information including recovered data and contact tracing. Michigan Department of Health and Human Service Dashboard: [Dashboard](#). Additional and updated information can be found on our [Website](#) and [Facebook](#) or by calling our public information line 231-882-2197. If you have COVID-19 related question, fill out a quick [survey](#), email questions to hotline@bldhd.org, or call our public information line at 231-882-2197.

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