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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release

August 23, 2021

Health official: Additional public confidence comes with FDA full approval of Pfizer vaccine

Today, the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine](#) for individuals aged 16 and older. The vaccine continues to be available under emergency use authorization (EUA) for individuals 12-15 years of age, as well as third doses for certain immunocompromised individuals.

“The FDA’s approval of this vaccine is a milestone as we continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Acting FDA Commissioner Janet Woodcock, M.D. “While this and other vaccines have met the FDA’s rigorous, scientific standards for emergency use authorization, as the first FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine, the public can be very confident that this vaccine meets the high standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality the FDA requires of an approved product. While millions of people have already safely received COVID-19 vaccines, we recognize that for some, the FDA approval of a vaccine may now instill additional confidence to get vaccinated. Today’s milestone puts us one step closer to altering the course of this pandemic in the U.S.,” she added.

The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines continue to be available under EUA for those 18 and older.

Dr. Joshua Meyerson, Medical Director for the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department, was pleased to hear this news and hopes it helps people who were awaiting this status get vaccinated now.

“I believe this action provides additional confidence to the public that getting vaccinated is safe and life-saving,” Dr. Meyerson said.

“We have not lost sight that the COVID-19 public health crisis continues in the U.S. and that the public is counting on safe and effective vaccines,” said Peter Marks, MD, Ph.D., director of the FDA’s Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research. “The public and medical community can be confident that although we approved this vaccine expeditiously, it was fully in keeping with our existing high standards for vaccines in the U.S.”

The health department is offering free COVID-19 testing with the support of HONU lab this Thursday, August 26 from 12 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Suttons Bay Old Middle School and Friday, August 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Crystal Café in Benzonia. Pre-registration is not required, but it is recommended to reduce time spent at the testing clinic. To pre-register for Suttons Bay, visit <http://honumg.info/OldSuttonsBayMS>.

Vaccination is our most powerful tool. 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 24th

- Suttons Bay Middle School Gymnasium, 310 S. Elm Street, Suttons Bay, MI 49682
- Time: 10:00-2:00pm
- Vaccine: Moderna, Janssen, and Pfizer (open to 12 or older, parent/guardian must accompany minor)
- To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Wednesday, August 25th

- Crystal Cafe, 1681 Benzie Hwy, Benzonia, MI 49616
- Time: 2:00- 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 Friday, August 20, 12 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (7), and Leelanau (5).
- On Saturday, August 21, 7 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (1), and Leelanau (6).
- On Sunday, August 22, 2 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (1), and Leelanau (1).
- Today, August 23, 10 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (4) and Leelanau (6).

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,309, Leelanau– 1,352
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 37, Leelanau– 69
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,238, Leelanau– 1,266
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 34, Leelanau– 17
- Hospitalized: 172 total; 3 currently

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