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## PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

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**For Immediate Release**

**August 26, 2021**

### **Health Department releases COVID-19 Workplace Toolkit to help businesses keep staff and customers safe**

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department has updated their [COVID-19 Workplace Toolkit](#) to assist employers in providing a safe environment for their employees and customers.

The toolkit provides a summary of OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) and CDC (Centers for Disease Control) guidance to assist employers in providing a safe and healthful workplace. The guidance covers universal screening, social distancing practices, and what to do if an employee tests positive for COVID-19.

“This is basic guidance intended to assist employers in recognizing and abating hazards likely to cause death or serious physical harm as part of their obligation to provide a safe and healthful workplace,” said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. “The toolkit contains helpful forms and links to resources ranging from a Workplace Health Screening form they can use with their staff to tips on how to develop and implement cleaning protocols,” she added.

All employers are encouraged to be familiar with [OSHA’s Guidance on Mitigating and Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in the Workplace](#) and the [CDC’s Guidance for Workplaces and Businesses](#). Under the OSHA Act, employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthy workplace free from recognized hazards likely to cause death or serious physical harm.

The goal of a healthy workforce can best be achieved by getting vaccinated and, if exposed, getting tested. Currently, 73.0% of residents 12 and older in the health department’s two-county jurisdiction of Benzie and Leelanau counties have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine – compared to 59.8% statewide.

“Our staff is holding clinics at area schools to make the COVID-19 vaccine and other required or recommended vaccines readily available to students and their families as they head off to school,” Peacock said, adding the school-based clinics and other clinic locations are listed at the [health department website](#).

The health department is offering free COVID-19 testing with the support of the HONU lab on Thursdays, from 12pm to 6pm at the Suttons Bay Old Middle School, and on Fridays, from 10am to 3pm at Crystal Café in Benzonia. The test is free, and no doctor’s order is required. Pre-registration is not required, but it is recommended to reduce time spent at the testing clinic, and walk-ins are welcome. To pre-register, visit <http://honumg.info/OldSuttonsBayMS> for Suttons Bay or <https://honumg.info/CrystalCafe> for Crystal Café.

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 31st**

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

### **Wednesday, September 1st**

- Crystal Cafe, 1681 Benzie Hwy, Benzonia, MI 49616
- Time: 2:00- 6:00pm
- Vaccine: Moderna, Johnson & Johnson's 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 24, 7 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (4), and Leelanau (3).
- On Wednesday, August 25, 7 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (3), and Leelanau (4).
- Today, August 26, 8 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (3) and Leelanau (5).

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,319, Leelanau– 1,364
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 46, Leelanau– 72
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,239, Leelanau– 1,274
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 34, Leelanau– 18
- Hospitalized: 174 total; 5 currently

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