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## PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

**For Immediate Release**

**August 9, 2021**

### Health officials 'back to basics' as COVID-19 cases continue to rise

Basic public health prevention practices, such as keeping a distance from others, regular handwashing or sanitizing when handwashing is not available, testing, contact tracing, and wearing a mask, remain just as important now as before the vaccine was readily available to anyone 12 and older.

“What we are seeing is typical disease behavior. Every new case reported is an opportunity for the virus to mutate,” said Dr. Meyerson Medical Director. “With 72% of Benzie and Leelanau County residents 12 and older with one dose, we are making good progress but still have pockets of our community that are still susceptible. As a result, the virus continues to spread and cause illness,” he added.

Health officials feel it is necessary to focus on the following to prevent further spread of COVID-19 in our communities:

- **Get vaccinated** if 12 years or older. Vaccination is our biggest tool and protective measure against the virus.
  - The vaccines are highly effective at preventing severe disease. The majority of hospitalizations and deaths occur in unvaccinated individuals.
  - Breakthrough infections occur when a fully vaccinated person tests positive for COVID-19. Breakthrough disease occurs when a fully vaccinated person experiences symptoms of COVID-19 disease. Exact rates of breakthrough infection and disease are unknown as data was not being collected until recently when recommendations changed for vaccinated individuals exposed to a positive case.
  - The majority of new cases in the U.S. are among unvaccinated individuals.
- **Wear a mask indoors**, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, especially in areas where transmission is high.
- **Get tested.** After notification of exposure, whether fully vaccinated or unvaccinated, individuals should get tested. You should stay away from others pending test results and follow the advice of your health care provider or a public health professional. To locate a testing site, [click here](#).
  - Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated individuals: Get tested 3-5 days following known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.

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 10th**

- 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 11th**

- 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 Friday, August 6, 7 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (5), and Leelanau (2).
- On Saturday, August 7, 2 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (1), and Leelanau (1).
- On Sunday, August 8, 1 new case of COVID-19 was reported in Benzie (0) and Leelanau (1).
- Today, Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 4 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Benzie (2) and Leelanau (2).

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

- Total COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,281, Leelanau– 1,301
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 21, Leelanau– 36
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 1,226, Leelanau– 1,249
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 34, Leelanau– 16
- Hospitalized: 169 total; 3 currently

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