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PERSONAL HEALTH DIVISION

For Immediate Release
September 29, 2020

The Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department COVID-19 Update

Today there were no new cases of COVID-19 identified in Benzie or Leelanau County.

We are frequently asked how we are reporting residents, non-residents, and visitors. Typically, we count a case locally if they are remaining in one of our counties during their infectious period and while they are isolated. We use the following definitions to report these numbers that are included in our case counts:

- Residents are those who live in the area year-round
- Non-residents live here part of the year only
- Visitors are here for just a short time (we may change their residence to another county if they do not stay in our county during the infectious period)

As the local health department, school related COVID cases will be included in our daily case numbers and will not be identified in our updates. If determined, we will provide information in our updates if there are concerns about community exposures, just as we do for positive cases in other locations. At some point this may change if there is a need to provide school specific information to protect the public health or if there are large enough numbers that there are no concerns about confidentiality.

"We knew school-related COVID-19 cases were impossible to prevent," stated Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. "Schools are typically not open to the general public and have records of everyone who has been in and out of their buildings and therefore, we work directly with the school to do their case investigation and contact tracing. Our top priority is to identify any exposed staff and students to make sure they stay health and safe well attending school."

We have been receiving numerous questions about how to celebrate Halloween safely. In addition to the [MDHHS guidance](#) shared last week we have created two resources for use by our community members, one document outlines [Halloween best practices](#) and the other document shares [low and moderate risk](#) activities for you and your family to safely celebrate Halloween.

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

- Positive COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 69, Leelanau– 109
- Active COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 22, Leelanau– 21
- Recovered COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie– 45, Leelanau– 87
- Confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the following counties: Benzie – 2, Leelanau– 1
- Probable COVID-19 cases in the following counties: Benzie – 4, Leelanau– 9
- Hospitalized: 17 total; 0 current

The State of Michigan has reported 123,633 cases and 6,751 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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