

**Immediate Release:
10/14/20**



Benzie-Leelanau
DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT
CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES



Local health departments, agencies collaborate for no-cost testing events

In a unified effort to make COVID-19 testing more accessible to our region, the Grand Traverse County Health Department, Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department and Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians are joining forces along with the Michigan National Guard to offer no-cost, drive-thru COVID-19 testing to the public Oct. 19, 20 and 22.

Testing is available to any Michigan resident regardless of symptoms. In order to be tested, **you must bring a driver's license or state ID**. A doctor's order is **not** needed.

Tests are for diagnostic purposes (this is not an antibody test) and will be sent to a laboratory for analysis. Results will be available via online portal, and any individual with a positive test result will be contacted by their local health department.

Below are the locations, dates and times in which testing will take place.

Monday, October 19

Turtle Creek Stadium parking lot (Home of the Traverse City Pit Spitters)
333 Stadium Dr.
Traverse City, MI 49685
12:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 20

Sleeping Bear Dune Climb parking lot
6748 S. Dune Hwy.
Glen Arbor, MI 49636
12:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 22

Crystal Mountain Resort parking lot
12500 Crystal Mountain Dr.
Thompsonville, MI 49683
12:00 - 4:30 p.m.

“With the onset of fall and schools back in session with in-person learning, more testing is essential. With colder weather comes many of the typical cold or flu symptoms. Those symptoms are also symptoms of COVID-19, so getting tested is important because you might think you have a cold, but it might be more. Identify those with COVID-19 and isolating them from others is the key to stopping the transmission further. Increased testing is an instrumental

part of assessing risk to keep the numbers down in The Grand Traverse region,” said Wendy Hirschenberger, Health Officer, Grand Traverse County Health Department.

“We are happy to offer mass COVID-19 testing opportunities throughout our counties next week. It is important to maintain testing capacity so that we can continue to meet the demands for testing as well as accurately monitor the pandemic risk,” added Lisa Peacock, Health Officer, Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department. “Our hope is that through this partnership with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Michigan National Guard, and our local public health departments we will be better able to serve the testing needs of our communities.”

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Media Contacts:

Grand Traverse County

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Media availability at the 10/19 event in Grand Traverse County will be from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. If you plan on getting on-site interviews, please arrange with listed media contact beforehand.

Benzie-Leelanau Counties

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Media availability at the 10/20 and 10/22 events in Benzie and Leelanau Counties will be from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. If you plan on getting on-site interviews, please arrange with listed media contact beforehand.

If you are a member of the media and are attending the event, please respect the privacy of those getting tested. When shooting video or pictures of the event, **do not capture faces, distinguishable vehicles or license plates** in any content intended for publication.