



# BENZIE

## SENIOR RESOURCES

Be connected. Be supported. Be home.

Dear Friends,

On Friday, August 13, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention upgraded Benzie County from Moderate Risk regarding the spread of COVID-19 to Substantial Risk due to the recent increase in the number of new COVID-19 cases.

As more Michigan communities move toward substantial or high community transmission due to the Delta variant, we are being urged to follow the CDC's updated guidelines to protect at-risk seniors, employees, volunteers, and visitors. For areas with **substantial or high community transmission**, the CDC recommends implementing face coverings for all employees and visitors indoors including fully vaccinated individuals.

The health, safety and wellbeing of our seniors and community is extremely important to us; we base every decision we make on just that. With the CDC's decision to upgrade Benzie County to **Substantial Risk**, I encourage everyone two years and older to wear a mask when in our facilities, regardless of vaccination status. Please wear the mask properly covering your mouth and nose. You may remove your mask to eat and drink. This was also the recommendation of Benzie-Leelanau Health Department.

In order to maintain some form of social distancing, only four people will be allowed to sit at the round tables and up to six at the larger rectangular tables. Please do not pull tables together.

It is vital that we all do our part to make sure we keep our vulnerable and at-risk seniors safe while at The Gathering Place Senior Center and Administration Office. If there is a case of COVID-19 traced back to one of our buildings, we will have to shut down for contact tracing, deep cleaning, etc. This will place our Home Delivered Meals Program in jeopardy affecting 225 homebound seniors along with staff, volunteers and those attending The Gathering Place for meals and activities.

If you are sick, please do not come to The Gathering Place Senior Center or the Administration Office. Consult your physician and get tested. You can still get COVID-19 if you are vaccinated, but the illness it presents is less severe. We encourage you to get vaccinated if you have not already.

Thank you for your continued support of Benzie Senior Resources as we work through this challenge and please, remain healthy and safe.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 231.525.0600.

Sincerely,

*Douglas Durand*

Douglas Durand  
Executive Director

