



Benzie County Office
6051 Frankfort Hwy, Ste 100
Benzonia, MI 49616

Phone: 231-882-4409
Fax: 231-882-0143

www.bldhd.org

Leelanau County Office
7401 E. Duck Lake Rd
Lake Leelanau, MI 49653

Phone: 231-256-0200
Fax: 231-882-0143

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3rd, 2023

Celebrating Health

Join us in recognizing the impact of public health during National Public Health Week

Without public health, life expectancy of Americans could still be 50, as it was in the early 1900s. People would still be frequently dying of diseases caused by poor sanitation and unsafe work conditions.

Without public health, diseases such as Polio, Typhoid, and AIDS would still be leading causes of deaths and loss of quality living. Air and water wouldn't be as clean. Tobacco use would still be hindering the health of even those who choose not to smoke.

Without public health, there would be countless more families and children growing up without access to nutritious foods and life-saving vaccinations.

April is National Public Health Week. Join us in celebrating the people and programs that have improved life beyond most comprehension. Public health promotes and protects the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work and play.

This year, health departments throughout Northern Michigan are highlighting the Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance (NMPHA), a collaborative team of healthcare agencies and providers spanning 31 northern Lower Peninsula counties. Together, they strengthen health and wellbeing across the region.

Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance represents:

- 7 health departments
- 31 counties
- 829,860 Northern Michigan constituents
- 16,669 square miles of coverage
- 70% rural living

"Rural communities like Northern Michigan can be some of the most vulnerable populations to public health threats," said Dan Thorell, Health Officer and Alliance member. "Limited resources and the increased need for travel create challenges in accessing healthcare services for our rural residents. Through the Alliance, we work to build and maintain a more robust, inclusive public health system that ensures everyone can access programs that help them live their healthiest, most productive lives."

"Public health is an extensive team of caring people who work behind the scenes to prevent, promote, and protect our friends and neighbors from unseen risks," adds Michelle Klein, Director of Personal Health. "Throughout this week, take time to say thank you to your public health workers."

To learn more about the Alliance, go to <https://nmpublichealthalliance.org>.

Media Contact:

Rachel Pomeroy, PIO
231-882-6085
RPomeroy@bldhd.org

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