



News Release

John R. Kasich/ Governor
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ODH Among Only 11 State Health Departments and D.C. To Achieve National Public Health Agency Accreditation

Accredited Health Departments Demonstrate Capacity to Serve Communities Well

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Department of Health has become one of only 11 state health departments and the District of Columbia to achieve national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The national accreditation program, jointly supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, works to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of the nation’s tribal, state, local, and territorial public health departments.

To receive accreditation, a health department must undergo a rigorous peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of quality and performance standards and measures.

“The Ohio Department of Health is honored to be recognized for achieving national standards that reflect our commitment to operate at the highest level of efficiency and effectiveness in our work to protect and improve the health of all Ohioans,” said ODH Director Rick Hodges. “With accreditation, we are demonstrating the agency’s accountability and credibility to the public, funders, elected officials and partner organizations.”

ODH joins the growing ranks of accredited health departments in a strong commitment to their public health mission, according to PHAB President and CEO Kaye Bender, PhD, RN, FAAN. “The peer-review process provides valuable feedback to inform health departments of their strengths and areas for improvement, so that they can better protect and promote the health of the people they serve in their communities,” she said. “Residents of a community served by a nationally accredited health department can be assured that their health department has demonstrated the capacity to protect and promote the health of that community.”

The other PHAB-accredited state health departments are in California, Florida, Illinois, Minnesota, New York, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington and the District of Columbia. In Ohio, eight local health jurisdictions have earned PHAB accreditation – Columbus Public Health; Delaware General Health District, Erie County Health Department, Huron County General Health District, Licking County Health Department, Mahoning County District Board of Health, Medina County Health Department, and Summit County Combined General Health District. All of Ohio’s local health jurisdictions must be accredited by July 1, 2020.

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