



News from Livingston County, NY

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Livingston County's Department of Health Awarded National Reaccreditation *Demonstrates Capacity to Serve its Community Well*

Mount Morris, NY, August 27, 2019 – The Livingston County Department of Health recently announced that it has achieved national reaccreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The national accreditation program works to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing and ultimately transforming the quality and performance of the nation's state, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments.

Livingston County's Department of Health is one of seven health departments that have thus far achieved reaccreditation through PHAB and was one of 22 in the nation to be accredited in 2014.

"We are pleased and excited to be recognized for achieving national standards that foster effectiveness and promote continuous quality improvement," said Jennifer Rodriguez, Public Health Director of the Livingston County Department of Health. "The accreditation process helps to ensure that the programs and services we provide are as responsive as possible to the needs of our community. With accreditation, the Livingston County Department of Health is demonstrating increased accountability and

credibility to the public, funders, elected officials and partner organizations with which we work.”

The national accreditation program, jointly supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, sets standards against which the nation’s nearly 3,000 governmental public health departments can continuously improve the quality of their services and performance. To receive reaccreditation, a health department must undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of quality standards and measures.

“Whenever you see our seal of accreditation, you will know that the Livingston County Department of Health has been rigorously examined and meets or exceeds national standards that promote continuous quality improvement for public health,” Ian Coyle, Livingston County Administrator said. “By continuing to improve our services and performance, we can be sure we are meeting the public health needs of those we serve as effectively as possible.”

Public health departments play a critical role in protecting and improving the health of people and communities. In cities, towns, and states across the nation, health departments provide a range of services aimed at promoting healthy behaviors; preventing diseases and injuries; ensuring access to safe food, water, clean air, and life-saving immunizations; and preparing for and responding to public health emergencies.

“The Livingston County Department of Health joins the growing ranks of reaccredited health departments in a strong commitment to their public health mission,” said 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. Residents of a community served by a nationally

reaccredited health department can be assured that their health department has demonstrated the capacity to protect and promote the health of that community.”

The national accreditation program was created collaboratively over a 10-year period by a multitude of public health practitioners. Since the program’s launch in September 2011, hundreds of public health departments have applied to PHAB for accreditation. In addition, public health practitioners from across the nation have been trained to serve as volunteer peer site visitors for the program.

“Achieving reaccreditation indicates that Livingston County Department of Health is dedicated to improving and protecting the health of the community by striving to continuously improve the quality of the services it delivers,” said Joe Finkbonner, MHA, Executive Director of the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board in Portland, Oregon. “Reaccreditation also promotes consistency in meeting standards. With an ever-increasing number of health departments now applying for and becoming accredited, you will be able to expect to receive the same quality of public health services wherever you go in the United States.”

The Livingston County Department of Health provides comprehensive public health services for residents throughout their life span. It provides health protection, disease prevention, and health promotion to create a healthier community. For more information, please call 585-243-7270 or click [here](#). To learn more about PHAB, click [here](#).

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