



Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health

MEDIA RELEASE

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Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health Awarded National Accreditation Through the Public Health Accreditation Board

PHAB-Accredited Health Departments Demonstrate the Capacity to Serve their Communities Well

(Mason City) — The Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health announced today that it has achieved national accreditation 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. The Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health is the second health department in the state of Iowa to be accredited, and one of fewer than 200 of the nearly 3,000 local health departments in the country to have achieved accreditation through PHAB since the organization launched in 2011.

"Achieving accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board is an honor, and confirms the Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health's quality of service meets a national set of standards," said Ron Osterholm, Health Director for the Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health.

"Achieving PHAB accreditation verifies the commitment and dedication of the board of supervisors, board of health, and health department staff to providing the highest level of public health to our community."

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 accreditation, 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.

"We committed to this process to determine what our Department's strengths and areas for improvement were and to strengthen our community partnerships," said Kara Vogelsson, Accreditation Coordinator for the Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health. "We used this opportunity to learn new processes and consider innovative ways to deliver services which has led to additional benefits for our community."

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“This accomplishment was truly a department-wide effort,” said Alyse DeVries, Assistant Accreditation Coordinator for the Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health stated. “Staff throughout the Department dedicated much time and effort over the past 2.5 years to organize and collect all of the necessary evidence and documentation to show the Accreditation Board that our Department meets their high standards and delivers the best quality public health services to the communities we serve.”

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

“The Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health joins the growing ranks of accredited 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 accredited health department can be assured that their health department has demonstrated the capacity to protect and promote the health of that community.”

About the Public Health Accreditation Board

The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), established in 2007, was created to serve as the national public health accrediting body, and is jointly funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The development of national public health accreditation has involved, and is supported by, public health leaders and practitioners from the national, Tribal, state, and local levels. Learn more about PHAB or sign up for the PHAB e-newsletter by visiting www.phaboard.org.

About the Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health

The Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health provides over 50 programs and services to the public. Their mission is to optimize the health of all people in Cerro Gordo County. For more information about the Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health or their programs and services, visit www.cghealth.com.

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