



ST. CLAIR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

19 Public Square, Suite 150 - Belleville, IL 62220

PRESS RELEASE

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St. Clair County Health Department Maintains National Accreditation Status through the Public Health Accreditation Board and Receives Notification of IPLAN Approval

Maintaining Accreditation through PHAB Ensures the St. Clair County Health Department's Capacity to Continue to Evolve, Improve and Advance

Belleville, IL – March 17, 2022 - The St. Clair County Health Department today announced it has successfully completed a review process to maintain national accreditation status through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The nonprofit PHAB works to advance and transform public health practice by championing performance improvement, strong infrastructure, and innovation. In maintaining its accreditation status for another five years, the St. Clair County Health Department has demonstrated that it meets PHAB's quality standards and measures and has the capacity to continue to evolve, improve and advance, thereby becoming increasingly effective at improving the health of the residents of St. Clair County Illinois.

PHAB's accreditation program, which receives support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, sets standards against which the nation's governmental public health departments can continuously improve the quality of their services and performance. "St. Clair County Health Department is proud to have achieved PHAB reaccreditation, especially while navigating a world-wide pandemic," said Myla Blandford, Executive Director of the St. Clair County Health Department. "Reaccreditation assures the residents of St. Clair County they have continued access to public health services that meet national standards of performance and accountability."

The St. Clair County Health Department achieved national initial accreditation status through PHAB on September 19, 2014 after undergoing a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it met a set of quality standards and measures. Today's announcement goes a step further by demonstrating that the St. Clair County Health Department has the capacity



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and continues to improve the health of St. Clair County residents.

“This is great news for St. Clair County. These certifications don’t come without a lot of hard work from our dedicated employees. Over the past two years, the health department met the challenges of COVID while maintaining the high level of care our citizens deserve. I’m Proud of their successes!” said Mark Kern, St. Clair County Board Chairman.

Often called the “backbone” of the public health system, public health departments are on the front lines of communities’ efforts to protect and promote health and prevent disease and injury. PHAB-accredited health departments demonstrate great leadership by placing their work for peer review, with the goal of using the feedback obtained during the process to improve the services they provide to their communities.

“We are extremely pleased to be at the point in the accreditation program where the St. Clair County Health Department, along with many others, are successfully maintaining their five-year accreditation status through PHAB,” said PHAB President and CEO Paul Kuehnert, DNP, RN, FAAN. “In so doing, these health departments are assuring their communities that the value of accreditation is long-term -- not a one-time recognition -- and that continual improvement is the hallmark of a 21st century organization.”

In addition to this reaccreditation, St. Clair County Health Department also received notification from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Division of Health Policy, who coordinates the review of Public Health community needs assessment and health plans, that the St. Clair County Health Department’s IPLAN (Illinois Project for Local Assessment of Needs) has been approved and is in compliance with the requirements specified in the Certified Local Health Department Code (77 III. Administrative Code, Sections 600.400 and 600.410). IPLAN is an innovative community health assessment and planning model adapted from the National Association of County and City Health Officials' *Assessment Protocol for Excellence in Public Health (APEXPH)*. It is designed to identify community health problems and propose solutions through a comprehensive and ongoing planning process. IPLAN is unique in that the community directs the decision-making under the guidance and leadership of the local health department. This process results in a five-year community health plan, created at the local level, that addresses a minimum of three health priorities, with time-referenced and measurable outcomes and impact objectives with appropriate intervention strategies. IPLAN has been recognized as an excellent



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statewide, but locally based, health needs assessment and planning tool. Many LHDs have indicated that as a result of conducting IPLAN, they have been identified as health leaders within their community and IPLAN has allowed them to effectively work with other local organizations in addressing pressing community health needs.

“The St. Clair County Board of Health is extremely proud of the St. Clair County Health Department’s hard work and dedication to achieve PHAB Reaccreditation and IPLAN approval while working through the challenges of the Coronavirus pandemic. PHAB reaccreditation demonstrates the Department’s commitment to providing quality services to the residents of St. Clair County, while IPLAN is the planning tool to aid in addressing community health needs.” stated William (Bill) Kreeb, St. Clair County Health Department Board of Health President.

“The support of the County Board Chairman Mark Kern, the St. Clair County Board of Health, health department employees and numerous stakeholders has proven invaluable,” Blandford added.

The St. Clair County Health Department, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote, and improve the health of all people in St. Clair County. Learn more about the St. Clair County Health Department at <https://health.co.st-clair.il.us>. For more information, please contact Brenda Fedak at brenda.fedak@co.st-clair.il.us or via phone at 618-233-7703 ext. 4420.

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