

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**BULLITT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AWARDED NATIONAL  
ACCREDITATION**

***Through the Public Health Accreditation Board***

**Shepherdsville, KY. (MARCH 14, 2016)** Bullitt County Health Department 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. Bullitt County Health Department is one of the fewer than 200 health departments that have thus far achieved accreditation through PHAB since the organization launched in 2011.

"In seeking accreditation status, the Bullitt County Health Department is dedicated to being good stewards in Bullitt County, accountable to our stakeholders, and committed to ongoing quality improvement that will have a positive impact on the health of our community," said Andrea Renfrow, RN, MSN, Public Health Director, of the Bullitt County Health Department. "Our staff has been committed to a culture of quality improvement and intentional in developing QI initiatives that will allow this agency to better serve our community in the most effective and efficient way possible. Our journey to accreditation and continuous quality improvement is a testament to the tireless efforts of our staff and support of our Board of Health and community partners to all of whom I am most grateful."

The national accreditation program, jointly supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, sets standards against

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## ACCREDITATION...

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.



“Whenever you see our seal of accreditation, you will know that Bullitt County Health Department has been rigorously examined and meets or exceeds national standards that promote continuous quality improvement in public health,” states Marci Flechler, BSN, RN, Accreditation Coordinator. “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 Bullitt County Health Department 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.”

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## **ACCREDITATION...**

“Achieving accreditation indicates that Bullitt County Health Department is dedicated to improving and protecting the health of the community by striving to continuously improve the quality of the services it delivers,” said Ray (Bud) Nicola, MD, MHSA, chair of PHAB’s Board of Directors and affiliate professor at the University of Washington School of Public health in Seattle. “Accreditation 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 Bullitt County Health Department, established in 1945, was created to serve the residents of Bullitt County. Our Vision is to become an accredited leader among local health departments in Kentucky in the areas of prevention, protection and health promotion. BCHD has realized this vision. But, the work continues to promote healthy lifestyles in Bullitt County through prevention and protection. Learn more about the Bullitt County Health Department services and community classes by visiting the website at [www.bullittcountyhealthdept.org](http://www.bullittcountyhealthdept.org) or call 502-955-7837 or 502-543-2415.