



Barry-Eaton District Health Department

Be Active • Be Safe • Be Healthy

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For Immediate Release

December 27, 2016

Public Health Accreditation Board Awards Accreditation Status to the Barry-Eaton District Health Department

Barry-Eaton District Health Department announced today that it has achieved national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), only the sixth health department in the state of Michigan to be accredited.

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. Barry-Eaton District Health Department is one of fewer than 200 health departments that have thus far achieved accreditation through PHAB since the organization launched in 2011. PHAB's accreditation program has quickly grown to become the reliable national standard for public health.

"Due to the hard work of our staff and together with our community partners, we have demonstrated without a doubt that we provide high quality services to our community. We are proud to share this news," said Colette Scrimger, Health Officer. PHAB awarded five-year accreditation status to the Barry-Eaton Health Department. With accreditation, the BEDHD is demonstrating accountability and credibility to the public, funders, elected officials and partner organizations with which they work. BEDHD completed community health needs assessments, community-wide health improvement plans, and worked to improve its internal processes and services.

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. The BEDHD began preparations for completing the accreditation in 2011. To receive accreditation, a health department system must undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of quality standards and measures.

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 Barry-Eaton District Health Department conducts a wide variety of services through education, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and implementation of effective policies and programs for individuals, families, businesses, and communities; from restaurant food safety inspections to the WIC nutrition program. Further information can be found at www.barryeatonhealth.org or contact us at Barry County call (269) 798-4133, or in Eaton County call (517) 541-2630.

For more information about the Public Health Accreditation Board, contact Robin Wilcox at (703) 778-4549. Information also is available at <http://www.phaboard.org>.

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