



DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Davis County Health Department Awarded National Accreditation

(Clearfield, Utah) – The Davis County Health Department (DCHD) 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 the quality and performance of the nation’s public health departments.

“Davis County Health Department staff began preparing for accreditation back in 2010,” said Lewis Garrett, DCHD director. “For several years we have systematically reviewed our policies and procedures, and the services we provide. Although our health department was strong in many areas, we used our evaluations to close gaps and improve our work even more.”

“I’m very pleased that the official accreditation report mirrors what we have worked so hard to achieve,” Garrett said. “Now the public that we serve each day has tangible proof that we’re on track to protect the public’s health.”

The national accreditation program, jointly supported by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, sets standards against which the nation’s more than 3,000 public health departments can continuously improve the quality of their services and performance. With recently announced additions, the number of PHAB-accredited local health departments has reached 96. To receive accreditation, a health department must undergo a rigorous, multifaceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of quality standards and measures.

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“The Davis 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 the strengths and areas for improvement, so that they can better protect and promote the health of the people they serve in their communities.”

“Achieving accreditation is not just a one-time stamp of approval,” Garrett said. “Even though we’ve been accredited for the next 5 years, the staff of Davis County Health Department will continue to review what we do and look for ways to make it better. We recognize that quality improvement is a constant journey and we’re prepared to stay the course.”

“I would be remiss if I didn’t acknowledge the extensive assistance from community partners who helped us in our drive to achieve national accreditation,” said Garrett. “We actively sought out partner agencies to help us identify the most important public health issues facing county residents. Those partnerships and coalitions have tackled these issues from a variety of angles while leading to healthier communities. And the accreditation site visitors recognized their contributions.”

“When you see their seal of accreditation, you will know that Davis County’s health department meets or exceeds national standards that promote continuous quality improvement for public health,” said Davis County Commissioner Jim Smith.

“Accreditation means you can be sure our county is meeting your public health needs as effectively as possible.”

Visit www.daviscountyutah.gov/health for more information about Davis County’s health department.

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