



SENECA COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

71 S. Washington Street, Suite 1102, Tiffin, Ohio 44883
419-447-3691 – 1-800-698-3691 – FAX: 419-448-5782
Fostoria Satellite Office: 419-435-4401 – FAX: 419-435-3024
Visit us on the web: www.senecahealthdept.org

Anne Goon, MS, RD, LD, Health Commissioner

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Anne Goon, MS, RD, LD
Health Commissioner
(419) 447-3691, ext. 6304

Seneca County General Health District Awarded National Accreditation Through the Public Health Accreditation Board

*Accreditation through PHAB Demonstrates Seneca County General Health District's Commitment to Excellence
In Serving this Community*

Tiffin, OH, June 3, 2021 - Seneca County General Health District announces it has been awarded national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Established in 2007, PHAB is the nonprofit organization that administers the national accreditation program, which aims to advance and transform public health practice by championing performance improvement, strong infrastructure, and innovation

"We are so pleased to be recognized by PHAB for achieving national standards that foster effectiveness and promote continuous quality improvement," said Anne Goon, MS, RD, LD, Seneca County Health Commissioner. "We especially thank former health commissioner Beth Schweitzer, MPH, MCHES, and former accreditation coordinator Laura Bogard, RN, for the many years of hard work they invested to help make this achievement possible."

Goon noted, "We hope this announcement, coming as it does in the midst of our public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic, will reassure our residents, our partner organizations, our funders, and our elected officials that the services we provide are as responsive as possible to the needs of our community. By continuing to improve our services and performance, we can be sure we're meeting the public health needs of local residents as effectively as possible."

The national 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. More than 80 percent of the U.S. population now reaps the benefits of being served by a health department that has undergone PHAB's rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets a set of quality standards and measures. Ohio leads the nation with 51 accredited local health departments.

"The value of becoming nationally accredited through PHAB extends far beyond the interior walls of the health department," said PHAB President and CEO Paul Kuehnert, DNP, RN, FAAN. "People living and working in communities served by these health departments can be assured that their health department is strong and has the capacity to protect and promote their health. Just going through the accreditation process itself helps health departments pinpoint the areas that are critical to improving the work they do for their communities."

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. Across the nation, health departments provide 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.

Seneca County General Health District and its community partners in the Seneca County Health Alliance are currently focused on improving the community's health in four priority areas: mental health and addiction; chronic diseases; youth bullying; and trauma. "Health is more than what happens at a doctor's office. A wide range of factors influence how long and how well we live- from education and income to what we eat and how we move to the quality of our housing and the safety of our neighborhoods," notes Goon. "Our health is shaped by where we live, work, learn, and play. It takes all of us working together to improve the health of Seneca County."

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About the Seneca County General Health District

The Seneca County General Health District, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Fostoria, Tiffin, and all of Seneca County. Learn more about us at www.senecahealthdept.org. For more information, contact Anne Goon at agoon@senecahealthdept.org or via phone at (419) 447-3691, ext. 6304.

About the Public Health Accreditation Board

The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) 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 department accreditation has involved, and is supported by, public health leaders and practitioners from the national, state, local, Tribal, and territorial levels. For more information, contact PHAB Communications Manager Janalle Goosby at jgoosby@phaboard.org. Learn more about PHAB and accreditation at www.phaboard.org, and by [signing up](#) for the PHAB e-newsletter