



# Clinton County Health Department

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***“Working Together for a Healthier Community”***

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## News Release

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For Immediate Release

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### **Clinton County Health Department Awarded National Accreditation By Public Health Accreditation Board**

PHAB-Accredited Health Departments Demonstrate the Capacity to Serve their Communities Well

Plattsburgh, NY – March 5, 2015 – The Clinton 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 the quality and performance of the nation’s Tribal, state, local, and territorial public health departments. The Clinton County Health Department is one of seven departments recognized most recently by the Public Health Accreditation Board, joining a field of 67 state and local health departments nationwide accredited since the program’s launch in 2011.

“We are pleased and excited to be recognized for achieving national standards that foster effectiveness and promote continuous quality improvement,” said Jerie Reid, Director of Public Health of the Clinton County Health Department. “The accreditation process helps to ensure that the programs and services we provide are as responsive as possible to the needs of our community. With accreditation, the Clinton County Health Department is demonstrating increased accountability and credibility to the public, funders, elected officials and partner organizations with which we work.”

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 nations more than 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.

“Our seal of accreditation signifies that the Clinton County Health Department has been rigorously examined and meets or exceeds national standards that promote continuous quality improvement for public health,” Ms. Reid said. “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.



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“Clinton County Health Department strives to provide the best possible service to county residents and works to improve health outcomes in our rural community. Through a continuing process of quality improvement, this dedicated workforce assures that Clinton County is a place where people can be healthy” stated Lynn Howard, President of the Clinton County Board of Health.

On behalf of Clinton County, Administrator Mike Zurlo commented that “Clinton County is honored to support a local Health Department that is among the best in the nation, and is one of only 2 local departments in NYS to achieve this recognition. The rigorous requirements of this process speak to the commitment and professionalism of the Health department employees.”

“The Clinton 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.”

The national accreditation program was created collaboratively over a 10-year period by hundreds of public health practitioners working at the national, Tribal, state, and local levels. Since the program’s launch in September 2011, hundreds of public health departments have applied to PHAB for accreditation, and hundreds of public health practitioners from across the nation have been trained to serve as volunteer peer site visitors for the program.

“Achieving accreditation indicates that the Clinton 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 Leslie M. Beitsch, MD, JD, chair of PHAB’s Board of Directors and chair of the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Social Medicine at Florida State University College of Medicine. “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 Health Department is a full service department serving the residents of Clinton County. The Health Department’s Mission is to improve and protect the health, well-being and environment of the people of Clinton County. Visit [www.ClintonHealth.org](http://www.ClintonHealth.org) for more information.

#### ABOUT THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION BOARD

The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), established in 2007, 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 accreditation has involved, and is supported by, public health leaders and practitioners from the national, Tribal, state, and local levels. Learn more about PHAB or sign up for the PHAB e-newsletter by visiting [www.phaboard.org](http://www.phaboard.org).

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