



Shawnee County Health Department

Shawnee County Health Department
Teresa Fisher, Director
2600 SW East Circle Dr., Topeka, KS 66606
Ph. 785.251.5600 | Fax 785.251.5696
www.shawneehealth.org

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CONTACT: Craig Barnes
Division Manager/PIO
Office (785) 251-5612
Mobile (785) 806-6310

MEDIA RELEASE

Shawnee County Health Department Awarded National Accreditation Through the Public Health Accreditation Board

Topeka, Kan. – The Shawnee County Health Department (SCHD) has been notified that it has been awarded national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). PHAB is a nonprofit organization that administers a rigorous national accreditation program which has local health departments across the nation demonstrate how they promote and protect the health of the communities they serve. PHAB’s mission is to advance and transform public health practice by championing performance improvement, strong infrastructure and innovation.

“We are extremely honored to be recognized by the Public Health Accreditation Board for the amazing work our team does ensuring that Shawnee County is the best place to live, work and play,” said Teresa Fisher, Director of the SCHD. “Becoming accredited is evidence of the continual excellence of our department and I am especially proud of our staff for the time and effort they put in every day. It is because of them that we are able to offer quality and essential public health services to our community.”

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 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.

“Whenever you see our seal of accreditation, you will know that the Shawnee County Health Department has been rigorously examined and meets or exceeds national standards that promote continuous quality improvement for public health,” Fisher 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.”

The SCHD becomes one of more than 300 health departments across the United States accredited by PHAB; including, one of seven county health departments in Kansas (Douglas, Johnson, Reno, Riley, Sedgwick and Wyandotte) to achieve national accreditation along with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Fort Riley Department of Public Health.

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



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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 Shawnee 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.”

To learn more about PHAB visit <https://phaboard.org/>.

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Shawnee County Health Department is committed to working in partnership with our community to promote and protect the optimal health of all people by bridging gaps to eliminate health inequities, respecting the diversity of our community, through adaptive and innovative processes.

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