



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



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EDITORS: The following is for immediate release. If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Brain, Communications Coordinator at (610) 344-6279 or Mark Rupsis, Chester County Chief Operating Officer, at (610) 344-6025.

CHESTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT EARNS PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS RECOGNITION

Chester County is honored as "Public Health Ready"

WEST CHESTER The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) has recognized the Chester County Health Department (CCHD) for its ability to respond to public health emergencies.

Chester County met the comprehensive preparedness benchmarks required by Project Public Health Ready (PPHR), a unique partnership between NACCHO and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"This recognition supports two of our Commissioners' strategic priorities – to promote and protect the public health of the community, and to ensure safe and secure communities. We are pleased to be acknowledged as 'Public Health Ready', and will continue to improve upon our ability to quickly and effectively respond to any public health crisis," said Margaret Rivello, Director of the Chester County Health Department.

"NACCHO commends Chester County for being a model of public health emergency preparedness," said Robert Pestronk, Executive Director of NACCHO. "The public health system is making great strides, thanks to the good work of leaders in local public health preparedness."

Local health departments recognized by PPHR undergo a thorough evaluation process by peer review. PPHR required Chester County to meet expectations in public health preparedness in three key areas: preparedness planning; workforce competency; and demonstration of all-hazards readiness through exercises or a response to a real event. The recognition confirms that Chester County has an emergency response plan in place, the plan is connected to other jurisdictional emergency response plans, agency staff members are trained, and the plan is exercised and used during public health emergencies.

Chester County is the first county in Pennsylvania to initiate a strategic planning process and has a Aaa rating on its bonds from Moody's Investors Service as well as AAA ratings from Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings. Established by William Penn as one of Pennsylvania's three original counties, Chester County has been named by Forbes.com as one of America's best places to raise a family and is ranked the healthiest county in Pennsylvania by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.