



Public Health Accreditation — What You Need to Know

Talking points for Assistant Commissioners/Heads of Divisions/Offices to discuss with supervisors, program directors, mid-level managers/professionals and their staff

Background — What is Accreditation?

- As you may or may not be aware, the Department was accredited in June 2017 by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).
- Accreditation measures how well a health department performs against a set of nationally-recognized, practice-focused, evidence-based standards.
- In the three years leading up to our accreditation application, the Department underwent a rigorous planning and self-examination process to prepare documentation that effectively portrayed our agency's operations and accomplishments, making sure to highlight specific achievements that meet PHAB's 105, high-quality public health standards.
- Reaccreditation occurs every five years, so our next round of documentation to demonstrate the important work you do every day is due in June 2022.

What's the Point?

- Currently, 35 state health agencies and the District of Columbia's Department of Health have achieved voluntary, health department accreditation. You can visit phaboard.org to learn more.
- It provides departments with a framework for setting priorities and gives valuable, measurable performance feedback.
- We are proud to be nationally recognized for achieving standards in public health quality and performance because it indicates that we are dedicated to continuously improving our quality of services.
- A Department committee convened in April to develop and launch an internal awareness campaign to make sure staff understand the purpose and value of accreditation, and their role in the process.

Stay Tuned

- Accreditation is a testament to the hard work and dedication of staff like you.
- For those of you who were involved in the accreditation process years ago, you might remember the thousands of pages of documents that were collected and submitted—it was no simple task, and I appreciate all the work that went into that.
- Now the future of accreditation will be in your hands. As we work toward reaccreditation in 2022, you will be asked to explain the work you do every day in the form of descriptive examples, narratives, plans, templates and policies/protocols.
 - It's important to emphasize that while we will be required to submit significantly less documentation this time, we will still need you to be engaged throughout this process.
 - There will be an emphasis on writing and story-telling skills to describe how we do our work.
- Ultimately in working together, the Department's collective documentation will once again tell the story of our standard of excellence. Thank you for your hard work and dedication!