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# News

Macomb County Executive  
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## Department of Health & Community Services

### *For Immediate Release*

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## **Macomb County Health Department receives national Public Health Ready recognition**

The Macomb County Health Department (MCHD) has been recognized by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) for its ability to plan for, respond to and recover from public health emergencies.

MCHD submitted and met the 283 benchmarks to prove emergency readiness capabilities. These preparedness benchmarks are required for recognition by Project Public Health Ready (PPHR), a unique partnership between NACCHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

MCHD is the first health department in southeastern Michigan and one of over 400 local health departments across the country which have been distinguished for excellence in preparedness through PPHR.

“Our Emergency Preparedness Program is able to call on our various divisions within the health department at the most critical times,” said Bill Ridella, director/health officer of the Macomb County Health Department. “They also work hard to cooperate and collaborate with other emergency response and human service agencies. Just in the past 24 months, they have proven their abilities during the response to the southeastern Michigan flooding that occurred in August 2014 in a timely, efficient manner.”

MCHD has a thorough and coordinated emergency operation plan in place to assist in public health emergencies, natural disasters or acts of terrorism. MCHD staff have the training to protect the health of the community during an emergency, according to the PPHR set of national standards for public health preparedness. These standards align with federal government requirements and other national best practices.

“When disaster strikes, it affects local communities and local health departments are a critical part of any first response to disease outbreaks, emergencies and acts of terrorism,” said Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck, NACCHO executive director. “NACCHO commends Macomb County Health Department for being a model of public health emergency preparedness.”

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