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## Horizon Public Health Awarded National Accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board



### *Accreditation through PHAB Demonstrates Horizon Public Health's Commitment to Excellence in Serving the Community*

West Central Minnesota — February 22, 2021 — Horizon Public Health is pleased to announce they have been awarded national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Horizon Public Health is the tenth local health department in Minnesota to successfully complete this process, in addition to the Minnesota Department of Health. Established in 2007, PHAB is the nonprofit organization that administers the national accreditation program, which aims to advance and transform public health practice by championing performance improvement, strong infrastructure, and innovation.

“We are so pleased to be recognized by PHAB for achieving national standards that foster effectiveness and promote continuous quality improvement,” said Ann Stehn, EMPA, PHN, Public Health Administrator. “We hope this announcement, coming as it does in the midst of our rapidly unfolding public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic, will reassure our community, our partner organizations, our funders and our elected officials that the services we provide are as responsive as possible to the needs of our community. Continuing to improve our services and performance helps assure we are meeting the public health needs of those we serve as effectively as possible.”

Horizon Public Health became a fully integrated local public health agency in 2015 as a combined local health department for five counties: Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens and Traverse. Horizon Public Health provides a wide variety of services including services for the elderly and disabled, children and young families, healthy lifestyles, disease prevention and control, emergency preparedness, Hospice of Douglas County and food, pools and lodging licensing for Douglas and Pope Counties. Horizon has offices in each of the five counties and employs a wide range of

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**Pope County**  
211 E Minnesota Ave Suite 100  
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**Stevens County**  
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Morris, MN 56267  
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**Traverse County**  
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professionals including nurses, dietitians, sanitarians, health educators, social workers and other critical support personnel.

"The value of becoming nationally accredited through PHAB extends far beyond the interior walls of the health department," said PHAB President and CEO Paul Kuehnert, DNP, RN, FAAN.

"People living and working in communities served by these health departments can be assured that their health department is strong and has the capacity to protect and promote their health. Just going through the accreditation process itself helps health departments pinpoint the areas that are critical to improving the work they do for their communities."

Often called the "backbone" of the public health system, public health departments are on the front lines of communities' efforts to protect and promote health and prevent disease and injury. Across the nation, health departments provide 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. "We are grateful for the vision of our governing board, the support and engagement of our community partners and our dedicated staff who all worked together to make this accomplishment a reality," said Ann Stehn, Administrator.

The national accreditation program, which receives support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, sets standards against which the nation's governmental public health departments can continuously improve the quality of their services and performance. PHAB has a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets a set of quality standards and measures.

### **About Horizon Public Health**

Horizon Public Health, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works in partnership with individuals and communities in creating an environment that promotes the health and well-being of all people in Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens and Traverse Counties. Learn more about Horizon Public Health at [horizonpublichealth.org](http://horizonpublichealth.org) and follow us on Facebook and Instagram. For more information, please call 320-763-6018 or 800-450-4177 or email [info@horizonph.org](mailto:info@horizonph.org).

### **About the Public Health Accreditation Board**

The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) 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 department accreditation has involved, and is supported by, public health leaders and practitioners from the national, state, local, Tribal, and territorial levels. For more information, contact PHAB Communications Manager Janalle Goosby at [jgoosby@phaboard.org](mailto:jgoosby@phaboard.org). Learn more about PHAB and accreditation at [www.phaboard.org](http://www.phaboard.org), and by [signing up](#) for the PHAB e-newsletter