

Public Health Points

York City Bureau of Health

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YORK CITY BUREAU OF HEALTH Earns Public Health Emergency Preparedness Recognition

York City Bureau of Health is Honored as “Public Health Ready”

As local health departments nationwide strive to protect the public from new and infectious diseases, bioterrorism, natural disasters, and other public health threats, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) has recognized the York City Bureau of Health for its ability to respond to public health emergencies.

The York City Bureau of Health 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).

“We are proud to have been recognized by Project Public Health Ready for our high level of preparedness,” said Barbara Kovacs, Director, of the York City Bureau of Health. “This recognition by NACCHO and CDC is exceedingly well-deserved because it reflects tremendous effort, dedication, creativity, and cooperation on the part of our entire team. We will continue to improve our ability to quickly and effectively respond to any public health crisis the city might face.”

“NACCHO commends the York City Bureau of Health 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 such as the York City Bureau of Health.”

Local health departments recognized by PPHR undergo a thorough evaluation process by peer review. PPHR required the York City Bureau of Health 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 the York City Bureau of Health 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.

The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice for local health departments in order to ensure the conditions that promote health and equity, combat disease, and improve the quality and length of all lives.

For more information on all Project Public Health Ready recognized sites and project tools and resources, go to <http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/pphr.cfm>.

Health Bureau Awarded Strategic Planning Grant

The Bureau of Health has been awarded a \$23,000 grant from the University of Pittsburgh with funding from the National Public Health Improvement Initiative of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop a strategic plan and to train Bureau staff on quality and performance improvement. This is the first time the Bureau will have a strategic plan to direct its activities in the future. Grants were awarded to several local health departments in Pennsylvania to prepare their departments for accreditation from the National Public Health Accreditation Board.

Reportable Conditions – 2012 City of York, Pa		
Reported Cases	Jan.	Total
Animal Bites	6	6
Campylobacter Enteritis	1	1
Chlamydia	42	42
Gonorrhea	19	19
Hepatitis B	1	1
Hepatitis C	6	6
Lead Poisoning	1	1
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Infection	18	18
Total Case Reports	94	94



Lay Home Visiting Program Takes on New Life

The Bureau of Health Maternal Child Health (MCH) Program has implemented a new approach to home visiting services. The Lay Home Visiting Program combines elements of evidenced-based home visiting models to improve pregnancy outcomes and healthy child development. Our MCH Outreach Worker will identify pregnant women and enroll them in the program, provide emotional support to pregnant women or new mothers and infants, teach them parenting skills, educates women on various issues such as stress, nutrition and dental care, and links mothers/families to community resources.



The program also incorporates home visits with a Community Health Nurse to assess family needs, make appropriate referrals to community support services, and instruct women in all aspects of health care. Our Community Health Nurse also offers free childbirth education classes for pregnant women.

The Lay Home Visiting Program, funded in part by a contract with the PA Department of Health, provides educational materials for women and families on what to expect during pregnancy, parenting skills, and many other topics. The MCH team is planning several events to connect the women with resources and to network with other women in the community, such as a Spring Baby Shower to learn about the importance of immunizations; a Summer Safety Family Festival to educate parents on summer safety and home safety for children; and a Fall Harvest Festival focused on good nutrition and healthy, affordable meals.

The Lay Home Visiting Program is available for any pregnant woman or new mother residing in the City of York. For more information, contact the Health Bureau at 849-2252 to speak with our Community Health Nurse or MCH Outreach Worker.

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