

NEWS RELEASE

December 9, 2025

For Immediate Release

Contact: Melissa Propp, RN at 308-345-4223

Health Department Awarded National Accreditation

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) is proud to announce that it has earned national accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). SWNPHD is now the 11th local health department in Nebraska to achieve this status.

PHAB is a national organization dedicated to improving public health practices. Its accreditation process evaluates the performance of health departments, providing a framework to ensure they meet essential public health standards. Health departments across the country play a vital role in promoting healthy behaviors, preventing disease and injury, ensuring access to safe food, water, and air, and responding to public health emergencies. Accreditation ensures that health departments are effectively serving their communities and meeting these critical needs.

“Public health accreditation is a long process that forces us to evaluate how the health department functions at a fundamental level,” explains Chloe Martin, Program Manager. We’ve spent years preparing for this, collecting documentation, standardizing processes, and continuously improving our programs and services. Officially receiving accreditation status is a huge honor and reflects the dedication of each and every staff member on our team to providing high quality services to the community.”

The accreditation process ensures health departments meet standards for quality by evaluating public health best practices related to health data, communications, public health infrastructure, program evaluation, emergency response, partnership development, strategic planning, and much more. Health departments are asked to submit rigorous documentation, are visited by a team of PHAB specialists, and are given feedback on greatest strengths and areas for improvement. Accredited health departments check in with PHAB each year to ensure continued dedication to public health standards.

The benefits of accreditation extend far beyond the health department itself. Communities served by accredited health departments can trust that their department is strong, capable, and committed to protecting and promoting public health.

“Accreditation is a major milestone for SWNPHD, which at its core reminds us of the importance of all we do for individuals and families across rural southwest Nebraska,” continued Martin. “We hope this announcement will reassure our community, partners, funders and elected officials that the services we provide are as responsive as possible and are meeting the needs of our community.”

SWNPHD serves the counties of Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins, and Red Willow. For more information on our services and resources to help prevent disease and promote health, please visit swhealth.ne.gov. You can also find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

###