

## WHATCOM COUNTY Health Department

*Leading the community in promoting  
health and preventing disease.*



**Regina A. Delahunt**  
Director

**Greg Stern, M.D.**  
Health Officer

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### **Whatcom County Health Department Awarded National Accreditation: Department Stands Out Amongst Best in the Nation**

Bellingham, WA—Whatcom County Health Department (WCHD) announced today that it has achieved national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Fewer than 200 health jurisdictions nation-wide have achieved this status and WCHD is one of only three counties in Washington State that have achieved accreditation thus far. The national accreditation program works to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing and ultimately transforming the quality and performance of the nation's state, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments.

"Whenever you see our seal of accreditation, you will know that WCHD has been rigorously examined and meets or exceeds national standards that promote continuous quality improvement for public health," said Regina Delahunt, Director of WCHD. "The work accomplished during the accreditation process has resulted in increased efficiencies in departmental operations and significant improvements to the many services and programs delivered by our Health Department."

The national accreditation program, jointly supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, sets standards against which the nation's nearly 3,000 governmental public health departments can continuously improve the quality of their services and performance. To receive accreditation, a health department must undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of quality standards and measures.

"I've been impressed with the Health Department's depth and breadth of programming, due in large part to the quality staff members who make it their mission to serve the public professionally everyday with compassion and a commitment to excellence," said Whatcom County Executive Jack Louws. "This recognition by the PHAB acknowledges the dedication and commitment by the Health Department leadership and staff to continuously strive for quality improvement that meets our community's needs. This hard earned and well deserved achievement by the Whatcom County Health Department exemplifies hard work and dedication and I am extremely proud of their many accomplishments."


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Public health departments play a critical role in protecting and improving the health of people and communities. In cities, towns, and states across the nation, health departments provide a range of 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.

“Achieving accreditation indicates that Whatcom County Health Department is dedicated to improving and protecting the health of the community by striving to continuously improve the quality of the services it delivers,” said Ray (Bud) Nicola, MD, MHSA, chair of PHAB’s Board of Directors and affiliate professor at the University of Washington School of Public Health in Seattle. “Accreditation also promotes consistency in meeting standards. With an ever-increasing number of health departments now applying for and becoming accredited, you will be able to expect to receive the same quality of public health services wherever you go in the United States.”

WHCD is a local government public health and human services agency. Their mission is to lead the community in promoting health and preventing disease. Their vision is that all people in our community have the opportunities they need to thrive in a safe and healthy environment. To find out more, visit the [WCHD website](#) where you can find out information on the types of services the agency provides, location information, and contact phone numbers.

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