



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Department of Public Health
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Health Department Receives State Accreditation

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – The Cumberland County Department of Public Health is pleased to announce that the agency was granted accreditation status on June 21 by the North Carolina Local Health Department Accreditation Board (NCLHDA), an independent entity. The NCLHDA board members are appointed by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Secretary.

Cumberland County Public Health Director Buck Wilson accepted the accreditation designation certificate during the board's meeting in Raleigh on June 21.

“Accreditation assures our citizens receive a prescribed level of quality in the service we provide, while focusing on protecting the public's health,” Wilson said, adding that credit for the department's successful accreditation goes to the dedicated public health employees and their efforts to serve Cumberland County.

The accreditation board was developed in 2002 by the state Division of Public Health and the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors to develop a standardized system for accrediting local North Carolina health departments based on the capacity of the departments to perform the 10 essential public health services and the three core functions of assessment, assurance, and policy development. These minimal standards set by the accreditation process must be provided to ensure the protection of the public's health, but do not limit the services or activities provided by the agency to address specific local needs.

To achieve accreditation, the local public health department must meet a prescribed set of standards, referred to as benchmarks, through conducting specific activities for each area. To complete the accreditation process, a site visitor team of peer public health experts reviewed the health department's self-assessment and supporting documentation and conducted interviews with staff, county Board of Health members and community partners to evaluate benchmark compliance. In addition, the site visitor team also evaluated all health department facilities.

The accreditation board reviewed the site visitor team's report in June and granted the health department accreditation through 2017. Local health departments do not receive any funding for accreditation.

If you would like more information about the Cumberland County Department of Public Health's programs and services, health-related data, or community resources, please call 910-433-3600 or visit with someone at the information desk or visit our website at <http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/health>. Comments are welcome and can be submitted on our website at www.co.cumberland.nc.us/health/comment_form.aspx. The Health Department is located at 1235 Ramsey St. in Fayetteville.

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The Cumberland County Department of Public was granted accreditation status on June 21. County Health Director Buck Wilson, left, and Deputy Director Rod Jenkins are pictured with accreditation site visit coordinators Debbie Edwards and Rosemary Summers.

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