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## **CHESAPEAKE EARNS PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS RECOGNITION**

*"Chesapeake Health Department is Honored as "Public Health Ready"*

Chesapeake – 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 Chesapeake for its ability to respond to public health emergencies.

Chesapeake Health Department 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).

*"I believe that this honor is exceedingly well-deserved because it reflects tremendous effort, dedication, creativity, and cooperation on the part of our entire team of experts. This community is a leader in emergency preparedness—in public health, in public safety, and in other disciplines, said Dr. Nancy Welch, Director, Chesapeake Health Department.*

"NACCHO commends Chesapeake Health Department 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 Chesapeake."

Local health departments recognized by PPHR undergo a thorough evaluation process by peer review. PPHR required Chesapeake Health Department 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 Chesapeake 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>.

For more information about the Chesapeake Health Department, go to:  
<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/LHD/Chesapeake/index.htm>