



HEALTH DISTRICT

Portage County Combined General Health District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Portage County Combined General Health District Maintains National Accreditation Status through the Public Health Accreditation Board

Maintaining Accreditation through PHAB Ensures the Portage County Health District's Capacity to Continue to Evolve, Improve, and Advance.

Ravenna, Ohio — February 26, 2026 — The Portage County Combined General Health District is proud to announce that it has successfully maintained its national accreditation status through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) as of February 18, 2026. By maintaining its accreditation for another five years, the Health District has demonstrated that it meets PHAB's rigorous quality standards and measures and has the capacity to continue to evolve, improve, and advance in its work to protect and improve the health of Portage County residents.

The Portage County Combined General Health District first achieved national accreditation in June 2019 after completing a comprehensive, peer reviewed assessment process to ensure it met national public health quality standards. Reaccreditation in February 2026 confirms the Health District's continued commitment to performance improvement, strong public health infrastructure, and innovation in how it serves the community.

The non profit Public Health Accreditation Board works to advance and transform public health practice by championing performance improvement, strong infrastructure, and innovation. PHAB's accreditation program, supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, sets national standards that help governmental public health departments continuously improve the quality of their services and performance.

"We are pleased to again be recognized by PHAB for meeting national standards that promote effectiveness and continuous quality improvement," said Rebecca Lehman, Health Commissioner. "This recognition reassures our community, partners, and elected officials that the services we provide remain responsive to the needs of Portage County."

The Portage County Combined General Health District works to promote public health, prevent disease, and protect the environment through leadership and partnerships that empower individuals and communities to achieve optimal health. Through programs including disease prevention, environmental health protection, maternal and child health services, emergency preparedness, and community health initiatives, the Health District continues to address evolving public health needs across the county.

"We are pleased to see the Portage County Combined General Health District successfully maintaining its PHAB accreditation," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, President and CEO of PHAB. "Maintaining accreditation demonstrates that this health department remains committed to continuous improvement and to advancing the health of the community it serves."

Often called the "backbone" of the public health system, public health departments are on the front lines of communities' efforts to protect and promote health and prevent disease and injury. PHAB-accredited health

departments demonstrate great leadership by placing their work for peer review, with the goal of using the feedback obtained during the process to improve the services they provide to their communities.

About the Portage County Health District

The Portage County Health District is committed to promoting health, preventing disease, and protecting the well-being of those who live, work, and learn in Portage County through education, prevention programs, and strong community partnerships. Learn more at www.portagehealth.net.

About the Public Health Accreditation Board

The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) was created to serve as the national public health accrediting body and is jointly funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Vital Records/Health Statistics accreditation is funded, in part, by the National Center for Health Statistics. The development of national public health department accreditation has involved, and is supported by, public health leaders and practitioners from the national, state, local, Tribal, and territorial levels. For more information, contact PHAB Communications at communications@phaboard.org. Learn more about PHAB and accreditation at www.phaboard.org.

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