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Florida Department of Health, Levy County, earns recognition

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Of the Florida Department of Health

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BRONSON -- The Florida Department of Health in Levy County (FDOH-Levy) has been recognized by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) for its ability to plan for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies.

FDOH-Levy has demonstrated these capabilities by meeting the comprehensive preparedness benchmarks required by Project Public Health Ready (PPHR), a unique partnership between NACCHO and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

FDOH-Levy joins a cohort of more than 450 local health departments across the country that have been distinguished for excellence in preparedness through PPHR, either individually or as part of a region.

“We are proud to have been recognized by Project Public Health Ready for our high level of preparedness,” FDOH-Levy Administrator Barbara Locke said. “We will continue to improve our ability to quickly and effectively respond to any public health crisis in Levy County.”

PPHR recognition confirms that FDOH-Levy has a thorough and coordinated emergency response plan in place and that staff have the training to protect the health of the community during emergency.

Local health departments recognized by PPHR undergo a rigorous evaluation by peer review to assess their ability to meet a set of national standards for public health preparedness. These standards align with federal government requirements and other national best practices.

PPHR recognition also requires health departments to collaborate with their state, local and community partners to develop plans that account for all the constituents in their jurisdictions.

“Local health departments play a critical role in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from public health emergencies,” said Dr. William Barnes, NACCHO interim executive director and chief program officer. “NACCHO commends FDOH-Levy for being a model of public health emergency preparedness.”

NACCHO, the voice of the 2,800 local health departments across the country, provides resources to help local health department leaders develop public health policies and programs to ensure that communities have access to vital programs and services that people need to keep them protected from disease and disaster.

Its mission 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 Project Public Health Ready, including recognized sites, project tools, and resources, visit <http://www.naccho.org/PPHR>.

The Florida Department of Health, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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For more information about the Florida Department of Health, please visit <http://www.FloridaHealth.gov>.