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Treasure Coast County Health Departments Earn National Recognition “Public Health Ready”

Treasure Coast - 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 Martin and St. Lucie County Health Departments for their ability to respond to public health emergencies.

Both the Martin and St. Lucie Health Departments were named “Public Health Ready” after meeting a year-long series of national benchmarks.

“Our health department first earned Public Health Ready recognition in 2005. Re-recognition occurs every five years, preparation is an enormous undertaking, however it reflects the tremendous effort and dedication that our staff commits to protecting our community’s health during a public health emergency” said Larry Lee, St. Lucie County Health Department Administrator.

“We are committed to emergency preparedness and this recognition is an honor for us and demonstrates our ability to keep our community safe in times of a public health crisis.” said Karlette Peck, Martin County Health Department Administrator.

Local health departments recognized by Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) undergo a thorough evaluation process and peer review in three key areas: preparedness planning, workforce competency and readiness training or response to a real event.

The Public Health Ready project was established through a partnership between the National Association of County and City Health Officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It is designed to connect multiple agencies to respond to emergencies.

For information about Martin County and St. Lucie County Health Department programs visit: www.martincountyhealth.com and www.stluciecountyhealth.com. To learn more about Project Public Health Ready please visit: www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/pphr/index.cfm

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