



# Press Release

Hamilton County Health Department

Web: [health.hamiltontn.org](http://health.hamiltontn.org)

**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

## **The Hamilton County Health Department awarded “Project Public Health Ready” Recognition & Protects Residents from Emergencies & Disasters through the PPHR Recognition Program.**

HAMILTON COUNTY, TN – The Hamilton County Health Department 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. The Health Department demonstrated these capabilities by meeting the comprehensive preparedness benchmarks required by Project Public Health Ready (PPHR), a unique partnership between NACCHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Health Department joins a cohort of more than 550 local health departments across the country that have been distinguished for excellence in preparedness through PPHR, either individually or as part of a region.

“It has been an honor to lead this effort, ensuring our plans, trainings, and partnerships uphold the highest standards of public health readiness. This recognition is a testament to the strength of our preparedness program and the commitment behind it,” says Monica Machacek-Chiapello, Emergency Response Coordinator. “Earning Project Public Health Ready recognition highlights the importance of investing time, expertise, and heart into building a truly resilient community, one that is ready to serve the people of Hamilton County, no matter what comes our way.”

PPHR recognition confirms that [Health Department Name] has a thorough and coordinated emergency response plan in place and that staff have the training to protect the health of the community during an 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.

“Public health preparedness planning, response, and recovery begin at the local level. Local health departments play an essential role in creating healthy, resilient communities that can respond to and recover from disasters,” said Lori T. Freeman, Chief Executive Officer. “NACCHO commends the Hamilton County Health Department for being a model of public health emergency preparedness.”

NACCHO, the voice of the nearly 3,000 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 to ensure the conditions that promote health and equity, combat disease, and improve the quality and length of all lives.

### Additional resources

- For more information on Project Public Health Ready, including recognized sites, project tools, and resources, visit <http://www.naccho.org/PPHR>.
- To read this information in Spanish, visit the Health Department’s Spanish Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SaludHamiltonTN>