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Department of Health and Human Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Waukesha County Public Health Achieves Designation as a Level III Health Department

*Recognition by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services Highlights
Waukesha County's Commitment to Public Health Excellence*

Waukesha County Public Health has been officially recognized by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) as a certified level III health department. This five-year certification signifies that Waukesha County meets the highest level of health department standards identified in state statute and administrative rules. Through this process, Waukesha County Public Health effectively demonstrated how it serves as the community health strategist and has taken a leadership role in the health issues facing the county.

The distinctions between Levels I, II, and III health departments in Wisconsin are clearly defined. At **Level I**, Local Health Department requirements focus on the public health core functions, the 10 Essential Public Health Services, national public health performance standards, and the Foundational Public Health Services model and are expected to align with current public health practices and state statutes. An annual report must be submitted to the Division of Public Health. Public health nursing services are intricately woven throughout Level I requirements.

Level II introduces everything from Level I and puts an emphasis on organizational performance through performance management and quality improvement, along with capacity building and workforce development, all while maintaining the integration of public health nursing services.

Level III, representing the highest tier, includes everything from Levels I & II, and entails a specific focus on community health strategy. A level III health department provides public health expertise, data, and research to the community; and a focus on impacting population health. Additionally, Level III mandates an environmental health program, with a community and systems focus. Public health nursing services continue to be an integral component across all levels, ensuring a consistent emphasis on nursing expertise within the broader scope of public health services.

"I am immensely proud of the dedicated team at Waukesha County Public Health for achieving the Level III Health Department designation. This recognition is a testament to the unwavering commitment and hard work of our staff. I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each team member for their tireless efforts. This achievement not only showcases our current excellence, but also inspires us to continue elevating public health standards. Together, we look forward to fostering a healthier and more resilient community." - *Benjamin Jones, Public Health Manager & Health Officer, Waukesha County Public Health*

Future Review Date

Local health department level designations are in force up to five years. The date of the determination letter is used as the start of that five-year period. Waukesha County Public Health's next DHS 140 review would need to be during or before calendar year 2028.

For detailed information on Public Health level requirements, you can visit: [Wisconsin Local Public Health: Requirement Updates | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)

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