



PIMA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Pima County Health Department Earns Public Health
Emergency Preparedness Recognition**

Pima County Health Department is Honored as “Public Health Ready”

Tucson, AZ – February 9, 2011 – The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) recognized the Pima County Health Department for its ability to respond to public health emergencies. Pima County was one of six counties statewide to receive this recognition. Local health departments nationwide strive to protect the public from new and infectious diseases, bioterrorism, natural disasters and other public health threats.

The Pima County Health Department met the comprehensive preparedness benchmarks required by Project Public Health Ready (PPHR). Health departments recognized by PPHR underwent a thorough evaluation process that measured their preparedness planning, staff training and overall readiness to respond to emergencies that threaten the health and safety of the community. This recognition affirms that the Health Department has a comprehensive emergency response plan in place; staff is well-trained to execute the plan; and the plan is exercised and used during public health emergencies.

Sherry Daniels, Director of the Health Department, said, “The Department is proud to be recognized for its dedication to being prepared for public health emergencies. This honor reflects the Department’s commitment to protecting health, preventing disease and promoting well-being in the community.”

“NACCHO commends the Pima County Health Department for being a model of public health emergency preparedness,” said Robert Pestronk, Executive Director of NACCHO. “The public health system is making great strides thanks to the good work of leaders in local public health preparedness such as those in Pima County.”

Information about Pima County Health Department programs and services can be found at www.pimahealth.org. To learn more about Project Public Health Ready please visit <http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/pphr.cfm>.

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