

IREDELL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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HEALTH DIRECTOR



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Iredell County Health Department

NEWS RELEASE

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IREDELL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT RECEIVES DR. SARAH TAYLOR MORROW HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

During the North Carolina Public Health Association's annual Fall Educational Conference, (hosted September 14th-16th, 2022 in Wilmington, NC) the Iredell County Health Department received the Dr. Sarah Taylor Morrow, Health Department of the Year Award for a county population greater than 59,999. Buncombe County Health Department was the only other health department that received this award during the Awards Luncheon held on September 15th. This award is given to health departments for outstanding programs and efforts.

With only 110 fulltime staff, the Iredell County Health Department works to meet the needs of a population greater than 180,000.

During the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Iredell County Health Department staff responded to almost 9,000 telephone calls and over 1,100 emails, to provide the community with reliable information about COVID-19 vaccines, testing, and how to protect themselves.

In July of 2021, health department staff provided requested education on the State's school toolkit to Mooresville Graded School District and trained 6 school nurses on the new NCDHHS COVID-19 StrongSchools Toolkit. This same training was provided at Iredell-Statesville Schools for 24 school nurses. Two additional trainings were held with 11 participants from 4 charter schools, 4 private schools and the local Community College.

In September of 2021, the health department partnered with the Iredell County Partnership for Children and Families to offer a virtual training on the NCDHHS COVID-19 Day-care Toolkit. There were 59 participants from 28 daycares. An update training was held in February 2022 with 28 participants.

This past year, the COVID-19 Community Outreach Worker Program provided 21 COVID-19 vaccine educational sessions at local industries, community organizations and churches with over 2,500 participants. The team also participated in 16 community events. Through their efforts, 718 additional individuals chose to get vaccinated after the information sessions.

Community Health Educators worked closely with County NAACP leaders on the development of a vaccine educational video widely shared throughout the county. ICHD staff coordinated community testing sites for StarMed to ensure that all geographic areas of the County had access to free COVID-19 testing. With the assistance of the Health Department, StarMed provided over 31,000 free COVID-19 tests in Iredell County.

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School exclusions from COVID-19 had a tremendous impact on the mental health of our children and youth. To help address concerns related to depression and suicide, the health department planned and hosted in-person training for schools and other youth serving organizations on May 5, 2022. Forty-six attendees from both school districts, charter and private schools, DSS, Iredell Health System, the health department and Partners Behavioral Health attended the training on Mental Health 101 lead by Partners Behavioral Health.

Iredell County Health Department knows that to truly impact the health of our residents, we must closely partner with other community organizations. Our COVID-19 testing, vaccination and prevention work was successful because of partnerships with Iredell County Emergency Management, Fire Marshal's Office, Emergency Medical Services, Cooperative Extension and Parks & Recreation, Iredell County Partnership for Children and Families, Senior Centers, the Town of Mooresville, churches, businesses and other community organizations.

Through cooperation, coordination, and determination, the Iredell County Health Department served and continues to serve the residents of Iredell County.

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