

From: tneff@phaboard.org
To: [Emily Miller](#); [Trish Factor](#)
Cc: tneff@phaboard.org
Subject: PHAB Extension Issued in Response to COVID-19
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 4:56:34 PM

Dear Emily and Trish,

PHAB recognizes the significant burden the ongoing and evolving COVID-19 pandemic and its associated response are having on health departments across the country. To help alleviate the stress of accreditation-related deadlines and activities for health departments currently in-process, ***PHAB is issuing a 90-day extension to ALL health departments engaged in the initial and reaccreditation processes.*** This extension applies to all health departments ranging from initial accreditation application through reaccreditation decision and ACAR.

Broadly, this means regardless of which step your health department is at in the PHAB accreditation process, there will be at least 90 days added to the overall timeline of the review. Additional guidance provided below will give you an idea of how this extension will affect your department more specifically based on where you are in the process at the time this extension goes into effect.

Please continue reading for additional details on how this extension will apply specifically to your health department's accreditation process based upon the step at which you are currently.

- Since your health department's documentation is currently **being reviewed by a Site Visit Team**, this process will be delayed by a minimum of 90 days, as Site Visitors are being granted an extension on the review process, as well.

Health departments that are in-process ***are not required to use the additional time*** provided through this blanket 90-day extension (i.e. you can submit your documentation by your original deadline, respond to your Completeness Review in 30-day per the normal timeline, etc); ***however, please do understand that other steps of the review process and timeline WILL be delayed during the next several months regardless of whether you use the additional time*** and the overall PHAB review process will take longer than it would during normal conditions. This delay will apply to assignment of Site Visit Teams, the review of documentation by assigned Site Visit Teams, and several other aspects of the PHAB Accreditation process, including the Site Visit.

If at the end of this 90-day extension your health department requires additional time for completing a step of the accreditation process, further extensions can be requested following PHAB's standard process which is outlined on page 19 of PHAB's [Guide to National Public Health Department Initial Accreditation](#).

As always, your assigned Accreditation Specialist can answer questions about this email and is available to have a phone conversation if you would like to further discuss any of the items described.

Sincerely,

Paul Kuehnert, DNP, RN, FAAN

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