



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

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DIRECTOR

TO: Local Health Department Health Officers; Michigan Association for Local Public Health; and MDHHS, MDARD, and EGLE Program Staff participating in the Michigan Local Public Health Accreditation Program

FROM: Laura de la Rambelje

DATE: March 24, 2022

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Accreditation Pause – Michigan Local Public Health Accreditation Program Cycle 7

The Michigan Local Public Health Accreditation Program (MLPHAP) has been paused since March 13, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Michigan Departments of Health and Human Services; Agriculture and Rural Development; and Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy have jointly decided to end Accreditation Cycle 7.

The ending of Cycle 7 means that no further reviews will take place for the Cycle. The 10 local health departments not completing On-Site Reviews in Cycle 7 will retain their Accredited status until their subsequent Accreditation. A separate communication will be sent to local health departments with remaining Cycle 7 Corrective Plans of Action (CPAs) to complete the Accreditation decision. The Accreditation program will provide to state programs guidance for setting of realistic and flexible timelines based on local health department capacity for completion of CPAs.

In addition to recognizing the immense workload and stresses placed on public health staff over the past two years of the pandemic, the ending of Cycle 7 acknowledges the lack of timeliness and relevance of reviewing materials from as many as five years ago to make an Accreditation decision today.

More information and discussions regarding Cycle 8 and the restart of Accreditation with partners at the state and local levels will be forthcoming. Currently partners are exploring utilizing Cycle 8 to support local health departments as they recover and rebuild from COVID-19 response, focusing on technical assistance and training. State programs will be working with local health department staff to ensure staff have the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to fully implement their programs through training, technical assessment, and consultation. Look for more information in the coming months.

If you have any questions or feedback, please contact Jessie Jones at MPHI, by email at jjones@mphl.org or phone at 517-324-8387. As always, thank you for your dedication to the health of all Michiganders.

c: Jessie Jones
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