



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **SARATOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ANNOUNCES SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO FULL-SERVICE HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND RECOGNITION AS ONE OF THE HEALTHIEST COUNTIES IN THE COUNTRY**

SARATOGA COUNTY, NY - Saratoga County officials announced today that its Department of Health has successfully transitioned to a full-service health department.

Saratoga County Board of Supervisors Chairman Phil Barrett (Clifton Park) states, "The transition to a full-service health department is not just a change in structure; it is a vital investment in the health and well-being of our community. We have worked closely with NYS DOH for a couple of years to transfer Environmental Health responsibilities as we recruited professionals to join our team. Dr. Kuhles and our DOH team will provide streamlined processes and efficient customer service, while taking proactive measures to maintain a safe environment for all."

Daniel Kuhles, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner of the Saratoga County Department of Health said, "Our staff have worked diligently throughout the transition, and are ready to take on this responsibility to better serve our community and respond to their needs efficiently and effectively. I am grateful for the leadership of Chairman Barrett, the Board of Supervisors and County Administration throughout the transition. Its success is also a product of the support from the New York State Department of Health, especially their Glens Falls District Office, whose staff facilitated the ease of this transition."

Supervisor and Chairman of Health & Human Services Committee, Joe Grasso, says, "Transitioning to a full-service health department allows us to reimagine health in Saratoga County from a new perspective, fostering a proactive approach that prioritizes community well-being and environmental safety."

Robert Swider, Associate Commissioner and Regional Director of the Capital District Regional Office for New York State Department of Health says, "County, regional and state partners have all made tremendous contributions to implement this transition. The Department's Capital District Regional Office and Center for Environmental Health look forward to supporting Saratoga County in running a successful environmental health program."

This significant change comes in response to the county's growing population, necessitating the assumption of environmental health services from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) in accordance with NY Public Health Law Article 340. The County began the transition to a full-service local health department in 2021 working cooperatively with the NYSDOH and with oversight from the

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Saratoga County Board of Supervisors Public Health Advisory Task Force. As of April 1, 2025, Saratoga County Department of Health (SCDOH) has assumed responsibility for all 22 mandated programs of Environmental Health from New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and is currently enforcing programs such as restaurant inspections, children's camps inspections, investigate lead poisoning, and more to ensure clean and safe environments.

Saratoga County has made it a priority to identify opportunities for increased efficiency and modernization during this transition. For example, SCDOH has implemented an online permitting system. This allows for a faster turnaround for permits to be issued, allowing businesses to remain open and reducing processing time for SCDOH staff.

Moreover, Saratoga County continues to be recognized as one of the healthiest counties in the nation, according to the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps annual data release. This commitment to public health and community well-being remains at the forefront of the county's initiatives.

For more information about the Saratoga County Department of Health, visit [www.saratogacountyny.gov/DOH](http://www.saratogacountyny.gov/DOH).

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