

**RESOLUTION  
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Board of Health  
INITIATED BY



Marie-Noel Sandoval  
DRAFTED BY

Board of Health  
SUBMITTED BY

12/21/2020  
DATE DRAFTED

**Rock County Public Health Acknowledgement**

1 **WHEREAS**, public health workers have played a leading role in helping to reduce tobacco use, prevent  
2 heart disease, promote treatments and early detection of cancer, raise awareness about prevention tolls and  
3 treatments for HIV/AIDS, promote early childhood health and nutrition, and establish the benefits of  
4 drinking water fluoridation leading to improvements in oral health; and,  
5

6 **WHEREAS**, among their innumerable contributions to society over the past century and beyond, public  
7 health workers have also played a critical role in increasing average life expectancy from 50 years in 1900  
8 to 80 years in 2010, an increase of 60 percent; and,  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, public health workers are dedicated to reducing infant mortality, ensuring that families are  
11 immunized against vaccine-preventable diseases, tracking infectious diseases, promoting mental health  
12 and injury prevention, helping communities prepare for natural disasters, advancing equity efforts to  
13 reduce health disparities, and so much more; and,  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, advancing public health takes all of us and no one can do it alone, and we recognize that  
16 public health workers are leaders in creating partnerships with the business community, local and state  
17 government, community organizations, and local schools to improve the conditions that lead to better  
18 health for all; and,  
19

20 **WHEREAS**, in addition to their extraordinary work under ordinary circumstances, our Rock County  
21 Public Health Heroes have dedicated their time and energy to combat public health crises such as the  
22 ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, raising awareness this year about the importance of wearing a mask,  
23 socially distancing, washing our hands, and not gathering in groups outside our immediate households so  
24 we can stay safe and healthy; and,  
25

26 **WHEREAS**, as leaders in the fight against COVID-19, Rock County public health workers have  
27 collaborated with the Wisconsin National Guard and public to bring more testing sites to communities,  
28 provided increasing amounts of data, raised and continue to address concerns about the disproportionate  
29 impact of the disease in communities of color, and skillfully conducted countless disease investigations  
30 and contact tracing calls in our communities to prevent further spread of the disease; and,  
31

32 **WHEREAS**, Rock County public health workers have worked tirelessly to protect our healthcare, long  
33 term care and school systems, and have helped to secure additional support, resources, and guidance for  
34 those systems during these times of crisis; and,  
35

36 **WHEREAS**, Governor Evers proclaimed November 23, 2020 as Public Health Thank You Day; and,  
37

38 **WHEREAS**, as we battle the most dangerous pandemic in a century, the County of Rock joins all  
39 Wisconsinites in expressing our deepest gratitude to our public health heroes;  
40

41 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled  
42 this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021 does hereby acknowledge Rock County Public Health for their  
43 tireless service and dedication especially during the COVID pandemic and commend this  
44 acknowledgement to all our county's residents.

Rock County Public Health Acknowledgement  
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Respectfully submitted,

BOARD OF HEALTH

/s/Louis Peer  
Louis Peer, Chair

/s/Dr. Connie Winter  
Dr. Connie Winter, DDS, Vice Chair

/s/Dr. Kaitlyn Meyers  
Dr. Kaitlyn Meyers, DVM, MPH

/s/Dr. Vijaya Somaraju  
Dr. Vijaya Somaraju, MD, MPH, FACP

/s/Eric Gresens  
Eric Gresens, R.PH

absent  
Supervisor Doug Wilde

/s/Danette Rynes  
Supervisor Danette Rynes

/s/Debra Kolste  
Debra Kolste

/s/Shirley Williams  
Supervisor Shirley Williams

Rock County Public Health Acknowledgement

**Executive Summary**

This year has been full of challenges, adversity, and constant uncertainty. We have seen a rise in the politicization of public health and the many additional challenges placed on our mission to protect the health of our community.

Public health has been in an unprecedented spotlight in 2020. Now, more than ever, the public's health—and the incredible role that the local public health workforce plays—is critical to the overall functioning of life as we know it in Rock County, the state of Wisconsin, the nation, and worldwide.

From promoting general health and wellness in our communities to enduring the extraordinary challenges they have faced this year with COVID-19, we owe Rock County Public Health a great debt of gratitude. We want each and every Rock County Public Health worker to know how proud we are of you as you work to keep our communities healthy and safe.

In alignment with Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers' proclamation designating November 25, 2020 as Public Health Thank you Day. We acknowledge Rock County Public Health for their tireless service and dedication.

As we celebrate and recognize our Rock County Public Health workforce, we want them to know how much we appreciate their commitment to making Rock County safer and improving the health of our communities.

**Thank you** Rock County Public Health for all you have done to keep our communities healthy and safe over this most challenging year. Thank you for the work to come.