



# Macon County Public Health

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## *Press Release*

Macon County Public Health receives Might Oak Award for their work on Macon County's Meningococcal Outbreak

Macon County Public Health's Communicable Disease (CD) staff was recognized this past week while attending the 2019 NC Communicable Disease Conference. The staff was presented with the Mighty Oak Award. The Mighty Oak Award is an honor, first given in 2015, to highlight a local Communicable Disease program that has exemplified the strength, flexibility and expertise in responding to a significant public health event. This award recognizes Macon County CD Program as a model for 2019 for their solid foundation in routine CD work which shows the strength, flexibility and expertise we value.

Carmine Rocco, Macon County Public Health Director, conveyed his sympathy to the friends and family of the two individuals who succumbed to this disease, "we are very sorry for the loss of life in this situation, and we will work hard to prevent illnesses like this one from occurring in the future." Mr. Rocco stated, "I am very proud to work with such dedicated, hard-working staff who work to protect Macon County residents day after day."

Macon was selected for this award because of their efforts in managing a large contact investigation in response to meningococcal disease in their community. The CD staff in Macon County recognized a need for sensitive and timely communication to their at-risk population and the community at large. They also reached out to their whole community and all providers, including the detention center and the local harm reduction community based organization. If you have any questions regarding the Meningococcal Disease or vaccines that prevent this disease, you can call 349-2081.

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