



Illinois Public Health Association

The voice of public health in Illinois.

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MEDIA STATEMENT: Illinois Public Health Association Applauds Governor Pritzker's Decision to Join Global Public Health Network

Springfield, IL - The Illinois Public Health Association today applauded [Governor JB Pritzker's announcement that Illinois will join the World Health Organization's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network \(GOARN\)](#), strengthening the state's ability to protect communities.

The following quote is attributable to Tom Hughes, Executive Director of the Illinois Public Health Association:

"Public health works best when we are informed, connected, and prepared. Joining GOARN means Illinois public health leaders can access timely, reliable information, global expertise, and trusted partners when it matters most.

When outbreaks happen, they do not stay contained to one community or one country. This decision recognizes that reality and ensures Illinois remains connected to the global public health community so we can protect people here at home.

Governor Pritzker is reinforcing something public health professionals know well. Science, preparedness, and collaboration matter, and decisions should be guided by evidence and transparency.

IPHA represents public health professionals across Illinois. We see firsthand how important strong systems and clear guidance are, and we are encouraged that Illinois continues to put preparedness and people first."

GOARN connects public health agencies to real-time disease surveillance and technical expertise during health emergencies. For Illinois, participation strengthens situational awareness, improves coordination during outbreaks, and supports local health departments as they work to protect their communities. Illinois' participation in GOARN aligns with the state's broader commitment to evidence-based public health policy, including recent actions to strengthen state-specific vaccine guidance through the Illinois Immunization Advisory Committee.

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About the Illinois Public Health Association

Established in 1940, IPHA, an affiliate of the American Public Health Association, is Illinois' oldest and largest statewide voluntary organization dedicated exclusively to public health. The Association works to strengthen and support health across Illinois communities by mobilizing partners and advancing health equity. Learn more at www.IPHA.com.