



STUNTING THE SURGE WHAT LEADERS NEED TO KNOW FOR 2022 PANDEMIC PLANNING



ADMIRAL RACHEL L. LEVINE, MD

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HEALTH
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Admiral Rachel L. Levine serves as the 17th Assistant Secretary for Health for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and is the head of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. In this role, she is working to improve the health and well-being of all Americans, help the Nation overcome the COVID-19 pandemic, and build a stronger foundation for a healthier future, one in which every American can attain their full health potential. ADM Levine's career began as a physician in academic medicine focused on the intersection between mental and physical health, treating children, adolescents, and young adults. Then as Pennsylvania's Physician General and later as Pennsylvania's Secretary of Health, she addressed COVID-19, the opioid crisis, behavioral health and other public health challenges.



BARBARA MAHON, MD, MPH

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE INCIDENT MANAGER
U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Dr. Barbara Mahon is the Incident Manager of CDC's COVID-19 emergency response. She is an infectious disease epidemiologist and board-certified pediatrician with broad experience in public health surveillance, outbreak response, epidemiologic study design, and vaccines. She has worked extensively on vaccine-preventable, respiratory, and enteric infectious diseases. Since training in CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service from 1994-1996, Dr. Mahon has worked in academic pediatrics, academic epidemiology, the vaccine industry, and at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as well as at CDC. At CDC, she has served as Director of the Division of Bacterial Diseases/National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases; CDC lead for the Sierra Leone Trial to Introduce a Vaccine against Ebola (STRIVE); Associate Director for Antimicrobial Resistance/Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases; and Deputy Chief of the Enteric Diseases Epidemiology Branch.



DAWN O'CONNELL

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Ms. Dawn O'Connell serves as the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The ASPR is the Secretary's principal advisor on public health emergencies, and her office leads the Nation in preventing, responding to, and recovering from the adverse health effects of man-made and naturally occurring disasters. Prior to this role, Ms. O'Connell served as the Senior Counselor to Secretary Becerra for COVID-19. She was also the Director of the US Office for the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation (CEPI), a global partnership to develop vaccines to stop future epidemics. Ms. O'Connell has also served as a Senior Counselor to Secretary Sylvia Burwell and Deputy Chief of Staff to Secretary Sebelius at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) during the Obama-Biden Administration.



JAMES BLUMENSTOCK, MODERATOR

PUBLIC HEALTH SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT, CHDS
FORMER SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY, ASTHO

From August 2020-January 2022, Jim Blumenstock served the Senior Vice President for Pandemic Response and Recovery at the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials and was responsible for the coordination and oversight of all ASTHO COVID-19 pandemic related activities, including recovery and community resilience phases. Earlier, Jim was the ASTHO Chief Program Officer for Health Security for almost 15 years. His portfolio included the program areas of infectious diseases, immunization services, environmental health, and emergency preparedness and response. Prior to ASTHO, Blumenstock served at the New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services for over 30 years, beginning as a sanitarian in 1973 and retiring as Deputy Commissioner of Health in 2005. While serving at the New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services, Blumenstock was a member of the Department's emergency response unit, and later served as incident commander for several public health emergencies, including the September 11 and anthrax attacks in 2001.