

ARIZONA**Cara Christ, MD, MS****Director**

Arizona Department of Health



As Director of the Arizona Department of Health Services, Dr. Cara Christ leads a dynamic team that is responsible for leading Arizona's public health system, which includes responding to disease outbreaks, licensing health and childcare facilities, operating the Arizona State Hospital, and improving the overall health and wellness of all Arizonans. Dr. Christ is currently leading a statewide response to the opioid epidemic in Arizona. The response includes developing and implementing a statewide system for real time data reporting of overdoses, and coordinating with law enforcement and the EMS system to launch trainings for first responders. Dr. Christ is also managing the state's Zika prevention activities, and previously led Arizona's successful responses to the 2009 H1N1 Pandemic Influenza, 2014 West Africa Ebola Outbreak, 2015 and 2016 Measles Outbreaks. Dr. Christ has coordinated Arizona's surveillance, implemented public health interventions, recruited and supported hospitals for certification as "Infectious Disease Treatment Centers of Excellence," and oversaw the development and implementation of 20 articles of rules, allowing for integration of behavioral and physical health while streamlining and decreasing regulatory burden for Arizona's health care institutions. Dr. Christ provides leadership and public health expertise for the Arizona State Health Improvement Plan, and one of her priorities is to improve population health by implementing strategies that address the leading public health priorities. Before her appointment as Director by Governor Ducey in May 2015, Dr. Christ had many roles with ADHS and most recently, was Deputy Director for Public Health Services and the department's Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Christ earned a Bachelor and Master of Science in Microbiology from Arizona State University. She earned her Doctor of Medicine from the University of Arizona, College of Medicine at the Tucson Campus.

