

NEBRASKA

Tom Williams, MD

Chief Medical Officer

Director, Division of Public Health

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services



Tom Williams serves in a dual role as chief medical officer and director of the Division of Public Health for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

He was appointed to this position by Governor Pete Ricketts and joined DHHS Nov. 1, 2016.

Williams oversees 10 public health areas that touch the life of every Nebraskan by promoting good health, preventing disease, and helping people live healthier lives.

Williams is an anatomic and clinical pathologist with subspecialty expertise in chemical pathology. Prior to serving in this position, he practiced at Nebraska Methodist Hospital for 38 years, the last 22 years as chair of pathology and laboratory medical director.

His previous activities involving public health and government include serving on CDC's Clinical Laboratory Department Advisory Committee and other CDC working groups, serving the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) as chair or vice chair for consensus or document development committees in the areas of chemistry and toxicology, quality, and emergency-preparedness. He contributed to the Douglas County Health Department's pandemic planning and emergency preparedness efforts, including working with the Omaha Metropolitan Medical Response System (OMMRS) and co-chairing committees responsible for emergency communication for healthcare professionals that focus on laboratory infection control and surveillance.

Williams has authored nationally published articles and collaborated in developing CLSI documents directed towards emergency preparedness for clinical laboratories and has spoken locally and nationwide, and presented webinars on this topic.

He served on the Technical Advisory Committee for the Nebraska Newborn Screening Program and has chaired or served on national College of American Pathologists (CAP) committees in the area of proficiency testing, clinical chemistry, publications, and education.

Williams shared the CAP Excellence in Teaching Award in 2013 for assisting in the development and facilitating an intensive course for new laboratory medical directors and received the CAP Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009.

He also served four terms as president of the Nebraska Association of Pathologists.

Williams holds a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center and a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Nebraska Lincoln.

He and his wife Sue have two adopted adult children and live in Lincoln.