

MASSACHUSETTS

Margret R. Cooke, JD

Commissioner

Massachusetts Department of Public Health



Commissioner Margret Cooke oversees a public health workforce of nearly 3000 and an expansive department comprised of eight bureaus and offices responsible for a range of programs, from environmental health to infectious diseases, injury prevention, to maternal and child health. In addition, the department licenses health professionals and facilities that impact public health and operates the state public health laboratory and four public health hospitals. She was appointed to the position by Governor Charlie Baker in June 2021.



Prior to her appointment as Commissioner, Cooke served as Deputy Commissioner for the Department in 2020. Before that, she served as General Counsel for the Department for almost six years, providing legal and strategic counsel and guiding the department through -critical public health issues including the COVID-19 and vaping public health emergencies, the opioid epidemic, Title X and family planning funding, EEE and West Nile Virus outbreaks, and Long-Term Care Facility oversight.

Cooke joined the Department from the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General where she led the Attorney General's Health Care Division and its work to eliminate barriers to mental health parity. Her prior legal work focused on consumer protection issues including unfair lending practices and financial and health data security.

Cooke has a demonstrated commitment to public health and has dedicated her legal career to public service in fields as varied as child welfare, domestic violence, and civil rights. She holds a J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law, and a BA degree from Mount Holyoke College.