



DSHS Announcement

Texas Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner Stephanie Muth has named Imelda Garcia, MPH, as interim commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services, effective June 9, following the departure of Jennifer Shuford, MD, MPH.

Dr. Shuford has been DSHS commissioner since September 2022. She will leave on June 8 to take the position of deputy director and chief medical officer of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“Dr. Shuford’s deep commitment to public service, combined with her experience and leadership in public health, has made a lasting impact in Texas,” said Executive Commissioner Muth. “I am grateful for her service to our state and confident she will continue to advance public health in her new role at the CDC.”

Garcia has served as chief deputy commissioner of DSHS since Jan. 1, 2025. She was previously senior advisor to the commissioner and spent five years as associate commissioner of the Laboratory and Infectious Disease Division, overseeing agency work to investigate and contain disease outbreaks, provide immunizations and operate the state public health laboratory. Garcia holds a master’s degree in public health from Columbia University and a bachelor’s degree from The University of Texas at Austin.



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