



History

Since 1798, men and women have served on the front lines protecting our nation's public health in what is today known as the [Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service](#). We trace our origin to the U.S. Marine Hospital Service, implemented to protect against the spread of diseases from sailors who returned from foreign ports, and maintained the health of new immigrants.

Who We Are

The Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service is one of the eight uniformed services, and is the only one dedicated solely to protecting America's public health:

- Led by the Assistant Secretary for Health and U.S. Surgeon General.
- Composed of highly skilled public health officers ready to deploy in a moment's notice.
- Specialties include: physicians, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, clinical and rehabilitation therapists, dietitians, engineers, environmental health and health service officers, scientists, and veterinarians.



What We Do

Protect, Promote and Advance the Health and Safety of our Nation

- **Provide Essential Healthcare Services** to underserved and vulnerable populations.
- **Deploy for Public Health Emergencies.** As the cornerstone of U.S. crisis response, officers deploy to natural disasters, disease outbreaks, global public health emergencies, and serve on humanitarian assistance missions.
- **Lead Public Health Programs and Policy Development.** Officers leverage their extensive experience, skills, and networks to provide expert leadership within HHS and throughout the federal government.
- **Advance Innovation and Science.** Clinicians and research scientists work at the forefront of the battles against the COVID-19 response, Ebola, cancer, food safety, HIV, mental health and more.