

**Public Health Thank You Day Quotes  
November 20, 2017**

Governor Charlie Baker

72<sup>nd</sup> Governor of Massachusetts

"Our public health infrastructure is critical to the long-term health and wellbeing of our nation and Commonwealth's families, and we appreciate the people who have devoted themselves to this work, tackling the opioid crisis here at home or containing global health threats overseas," said Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker. "Our administration is committed to advocating for our public health workforce and their contributions to healthcare advancements in Massachusetts and across the globe."

Brenda Fitzgerald, MD

Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

"The public health workforce works tirelessly to protect Americans from health threats – and because of their dedicated service, we can all live healthier lives. Thank you for everything you do to keep us healthy and safe!"

Francis Collins, MD, PhD

"We are fortunate to live in a country that places such a high value on biomedical research and public health. Through this investment, we are better able to protect the health of Americans and people around the world. My colleagues at NIH and I applaud all those in the U.S. and abroad who dedicate themselves to the noble work of public health."

Gopal Khanna, MBA

Director, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

"In recognition of Public Health Thank You Day, AHRQ joins in saluting public health professionals here in the U.S. and across the world. As an Agency dedicated to improving the quality and safety of patient care, as well as access to needed services, we're proud to call public health professionals our partners in making sure patients receive the best care possible."

Gary Gibbons, MD

“Keeping our nation healthy is a daunting challenge. Researchers working in the public health workforce rise to that challenge. Their commitment, expertise, and passion turns scientific discoveries into health. Discovering emerging patterns of disease enhance our ability to prevent, detect, and treat heart, lung, blood, and sleep disorders. Your determination and effort improve health in every community across our nation. Thank you, on #PHTYD and every day!”

Roger I. Glass, MD, PhD

Director Fogarty International Center, NIH

“We are fortunate to live in a time when—thanks to scientific advances that have produced lifesaving vaccines and treatments—we can actually begin to imagine a disease-free world. We are especially grateful to our grantees and collaborators who are training the next generation of global health leaders to solve the world’s most pressing problems and improve the health of people everywhere. Thank you for all you do!”

Joshua Gordon, MD PhD

Director, National Institute of Mental Health, NIH

“As I begin my sophomore year in government at NIH, I’ve gained an appreciation for the dedication of my colleagues who work here to advance medical research on behalf of the American people. Although it’s easy to lose sight of this, on Public Health Thank You Day, we can take pride in looking back at our lineage as part the U.S. Public Health Service – public servants who walk in the footsteps of forebears who have selflessly remained true to this mission since 1798.”

Eliseo Pérez-Stable, MD

Director, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, NIH

“It is my privilege to recognize public health professionals for their efforts to improve minority health and address health disparities, and recognize how health outcomes differ by race/ethnicity and socioeconomic status. Through research and deployment of public health strategies, these professionals are empowering us all to enjoy long, healthy and productive lives. Know that we appreciate these commitments and applaud the profoundly important impact.”

David Shurtleff, PhD

Acting Director, National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health

“For Public Health Thank You Day, I want to say a big thank you to the researchers who provide the evidence needed to help answer some of our biggest public health challenges. And to the practitioners and clinicians who serve as partners in the care of their patients.”

Nora D. Volkow, MD

Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse, NIH

“We salute all of the public health providers and researchers nationwide for their dedication to developing innovative solutions to our nation’s most pressing health problems, including the opioid overdose crisis. Working together, we can translate cutting-edge scientific research to advance prevention and treatment of diseases and improve the health of all Americans.”

Mark McClellan, MD, PhD

Director, Duke-Robert J. Margolis, MD, Center for Health Policy, Duke University

Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration 2002-2004

Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services 2004-2006

“The work of public health professionals is foundational to the wellbeing of all Americans. Further progress on high-quality health care and on improving population health will require building on the efforts of public health officials and communities to focus on the underlying causes of our nation’s health problems.”

Victor Dzau, MD

President, National Academy of Medicine

“Without public health and the talented, caring individuals who advance it, life expectancy would be shorter, natural disasters would wreak more havoc, and communities throughout the US and across the globe would be far more vulnerable to a multitude of health threats. It may be difficult to quantify the value of diseases prevented and crises quickly contained or averted, but it is not difficult to appreciate and honor the men and women who work incredibly hard to achieve those quiet victories. I am pleased to join the chorus of voices thanking the public health workforce for their innumerable contributions to a healthier, safer world.”

Jim Yong Kim, MD PhD

President, World Bank Group

“Public health workers play a crucially important, and chronically underappreciated, role in combating health and security challenges that threaten individuals and communities across the globe. Thank you for your dedication, your hard work, and your far-reaching impact.”

Joe V. Selby, MD MPH

Executive Director, Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

“At PCORI, it’s obvious to us that the clinic and the community are interdependent components of health – from anticipating and preventing illness to healing or ameliorating the symptoms of illness. The sciences of clinical medicine and public health are also intertwined, although I hope that in 10 years, that will be so much better understood than it is today that I wouldn’t think to submit this quote. Most important though, hats off to public health professionals everywhere!”

The Honorable Michael Castle

U.S. Representative, 1993-2011

69<sup>th</sup> Governor of Delaware, 1985-1992

“Public Health Thank You Day is an opportunity to show our appreciation for individuals whose work to prevent and rapidly respond to community health threats is often evidenced by what we don’t see, rather than what we do. Because of their efforts, fewer Americans are harmed by disease outbreaks, fewer babies are born prematurely, fewer children are exposed to lead poisoning, and that’s just the tip of the iceberg. We owe the public health workforce a debt of gratitude every day; it is my pleasure to thank them on PHTYD.”

The Honorable Bart Gordon

U.S. Representative, 1985—2011

“The public health workforce is the first line of defense against threats to the health and safety of Americans and populations across the globe. Today we recognize their crucial role in creating a healthier future for us all.”

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume

U.S. Representative, 1987—1996

“The public health community deserves our gratitude and support for working to bring about a healthier world, not just for some of us, but for all of us. These committed and effective professionals don’t seek the spotlight, but day in and day out, they earn it. Whether your contributions to public health take place in the lab, in a healthcare setting, or in the community, thank you for what you believe and what you do.”

The Honorable John Edward Porter

U.S. Representative, 1980—2001

Research!America Chair Emeritus

“On this Public Health Thank You Day, we celebrate public health professionals and recognize the essential work they do every day. Their vision, leadership and dedication to a healthy nation benefits us all in profoundly important ways. Thank you!”

Tenley E. Albright, MD

Director, MIT Collaborative Initiatives

“Thank you to all public health professionals, and to everyone concerned about public health. Right now you are especially vital to the health of our nation and to the health of the globe as we surgical and medical professionals are keenly aware that all efforts toward prevention and wellness are most critical.”

Georges Benjamin, MD

Executive Director, American Public Health Association

“The public health workforce is dedicated to assuring our health and the health of our communities. From protecting against disease and preventing injury to addressing the determinants that influence our health, public health professionals work tirelessly with too little recognition for their efforts. Here at APHA, we are proud of and grateful for their service and honored to work alongside them in creating the healthiest nation in one generation.”

Stefano Bertuzzi, PhD MPH

CEO, American Society for Microbiology

“We are very grateful for the public health workers who put themselves at risk to protect both the public and affected populations from globally emerging infectious diseases like Zika and Ebola. We are also indebted to ASM members and volunteers, tirelessly working out of the spotlight, who train and mentor the global workforce. Without their knowledge and expertise, we would be lost in the fight against epidemics.”

Ann Cary, PhD MPH RN FNAP FAAN

Dean and Professor, University of Missouri Kansas City School of Nursing and Health Studies

Chair-elect of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing

“Public health is often invisible to communities until a crisis becomes apparent-as when violence shatters communities, contaminated drinking water causes disease, policies place individual interests over public good, and communities ignore the social determinants of health, illness, and access to basic health care. The science of public health enables providers to more effectively utilize advances in medical care by acknowledging that a community zip code is as important to health status as the genetic code of a person who resides there. The alignment of public health science and medical science may be the most important contemporary factor globally to assure the health of the public! Illuminating the value of public health and public health providers to the health status of every global citizen is the most important message we can offer for Public Health Thank You Day!”

William T. Cefalu, MD

Chief Scientific, Medical and Mission Officer, American Diabetes Association

“Thank you to the tireless public health professionals who work every day to care for people with diabetes and to reduce the burden of diabetes in America. Today, and every day, we are grateful for the NIDDK researchers who are working to prevent, cure and develop better treatments for this disease and ways to reduce the devastating complications. They have developed the technology for continuous glucose monitoring, treatments that reduce the risk of amputation and a program that lowers the risk of developing type 2 diabetes by 58%. Critical basic research by NIH has also led to valuable clinical treatments that can help decrease cardiovascular complications and save lives. This important work has and will continue to improve the lives and health of millions of Americans with and at risk for diabetes.”

Paul Farmer, MD PhD

Kolokotronis University Professor of Global Health and Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Co-Founder and Chief Strategist, Partners In Health

“From urban centers to rural villages, wherever public health practitioners are combating disease— infectious and noncommunicable alike—they are improving the health and wellbeing of all of us. For the world’s most poor and vulnerable especially, this translates to meaningful contributions to the movement for global health equity.”

Susan Fitzpatrick, PhD

President, James S. McDonnell Foundation

“I am grateful for the efforts made by the Public Health community – improved access to clean water and healthy housing, continual progress in the battles against infectious and communicable diseases, ongoing efforts to diminish the impact of smoking, obesity, and sedentary lifestyles. Frightening to contemplate what life would be like without the daily impact made by our Public Health professionals.”

Karen Goraleski

Executive Director, American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

“Across the globe, researchers are working with local communities to identify and implement innovative research-driven solutions to combat infectious and chronic diseases, identify and eliminate environmental health threats, and plan for more effective disaster response efforts. Thank you for your vision, and your personal and professional commitment to better health for all.”

William N. Hait, M.D., Ph.D

Global Head Research & Development, Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson

“At Janssen and Johnson & Johnson, we are deeply appreciative of everyone who partners to create a ‘world without disease’ by eliminating and reversing the disease-causing process. Transforming lives by finding new and better ways to prevent, intercept, treat and cure disease requires the most promising science and strongest collaborations with patients, physicians, nurses, payers, policy makers, advocates, industry and many other partners across the healthcare spectrum. Jointly, we’ll be able to transform healthcare forever”

Larry Hausner, MBA

President, ConStrat

Former CEO, the American Diabetes Association

“Public health professionals across the nation and globe lead the way in preventing disease and injury, fostering community health and conducting vital research,” said Larry Hausner, MBA, president of ConStrat and former CEO of the American Diabetes Association. “Thank you today and every day for your commitment, dedication, and hard work.”

Mary J.C. Hendrix, PhD

President, Shepherd University

“The quintessential role Public Health Professionals play in ensuring the health and well-being of Americans and individuals throughout the world is gratefully acknowledged on this special day. Thank you, Public Health Professionals, for your dedication to such a noble cause.”

Martha Hill, RN PhD

Dean Emerita, The Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing

“The strength of our public health system lies squarely in its workforce, and no subset of that workforce is more dedicated or impactful than nurses. Whether they are providing care, conducting research, participating in outreach or in education, nurses play a crucial role in advancing individual and population health. It is a privilege to thank these men and women, and everyone working to meet community health needs, for your many contributions to our nation and world.”

Harry Johns

President and Chief Executive Officer, Alzheimer's Association

“Members of the public health community deserve our respect, gratitude and support for their underappreciated role in American and global health and health care. Whether the focus is on epidemiologists who leverage science to help gauge the macro impact of health threats like Alzheimer’s, the public health nurses who assist individuals managing multiple chronic conditions and other complex health challenges, the community educators conducting outreach in local communities, or individuals in one of the many other professions within the public health sphere, our nation and world are the better for their commitment and hard work. Thank you for a healthier, safer, nation and world.”

James Madara, MD

Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, American Medical Association

“The AMA is pleased to salute frontline public health workers for their tireless efforts to protect the health of all Americans—providing us with protection from the epidemics and illnesses that pose the biggest threats to our health. Our nation is healthier because of the work they do each day, and we must continue to do everything we can to ensure our public health workforce has the resources it needs to keep Americans safe and healthy.”

LaShawn McIver, MD, MPH

Senior Vice President, Government Affairs and Advocacy, American Diabetes Association

“Thank you to the determined public health professionals working every day to lessen the burden of diabetes in America. The CDC’s Division of Diabetes Translation (DDT) leads national efforts to prevent diabetes by implementing outcomes-based research and education. DDT’s work includes state diabetes prevention and control activities, which fund evidence-based programs to prevent and control diabetes across the country, including the National Diabetes Prevention Program. These and other diabetes prevention and management efforts are critical public health strategies that can help address the growing diabetes epidemic.

Herbert Pardes, MD

Executive Vice Chairman, Board of Trustees, New York-Presbyterian Hospital

“I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of our public health professionals. Public health is the bedrock of an inclusive, responsive and equitable health system, one that recognizes the complexity of factors that contribute to individual and community health. I thank the men and women who dedicate their lives to building a better future.”

Harold L. Paz, MD, MS

Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Aetna Inc.

“Public health professionals not only play a critical role in reducing the burden of disease and addressing complex community health crises like the opioid epidemic, they are at the epicenter of natural disaster, pandemic and bioterrorism preparedness and response. Our public health system, and the men and women responsible for its excellence, deserve our gratitude and support.”

E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA

Vice President for Medical Affairs, University of Maryland

John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor

Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine

“Our public health professionals have a profound and indelible impact on communities. Their efforts to protect and advance our health and safety contribute in numerous ways to the strength of our nation, and I am pleased to join in thanking them for this service.”

Lisa Simpson, MB, BCh, MPH, FAAP

President and CEO, AcademyHealth

“A sincere thank you to the public health workforce for all you do! Every day, public health providers and researchers tackle tough challenges in our communities and come up with answers that improve our collective well being. Thank you for your dedication, your expertise, and your passion for creating a healthier future for us all!”

Mary Woolley

President and CEO, Research!America

“Research!America salutes all those who work in public health, devoting their talents and expertise to improving the quality of life of Americans. Public Health Thank You Day is an opportunity to shine a spotlight on the people who help save lives during natural disasters, protect us from disease threats and boost the health and prosperity of communities across the country.”