

ARKANSAS

Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH

Director and State Health Officer

Arkansas Department of Health



Dr. Nate Smith has served as Director and State Health Officer for the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) since 2013. In this position, he is a member of the Governor's cabinet and provides senior scientific and executive leadership for the agency. Dr. Smith has a strong commitment to the mission of ADH, "To protect and improve the health and well-being of all Arkansans." In his role as Director he strives to help colleagues achieve their full potential using public health best practices supported by science-based decisions. He currently serves as president-elect of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO).

The ADH delivers over 100 services through the main office in Little Rock and over 90 local health units in each of the state's 75 counties. These services include immunizations, WIC, outbreak response, vital records, chronic disease prevention, preparedness and emergency response, injury and violence prevention, and suicide prevention. The ADH also includes the Arkansas Public Health Laboratory, which tests for safe food and drinking water, detects inherited genetic disorders in newborns, and provides early identification of infectious diseases. Local, state, and federal partnerships help the ADH to advance its mission and best serve the people of Arkansas.

Dr. Nate Smith has previously served the ADH as Branch Chief for Infectious Diseases, State Epidemiologist, and Deputy Director for Public Health Programs. He is board-certified in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases and holds voluntary faculty positions in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine and in the Epidemiology Department at the College of Public Health. His clinical interests include HIV, tropical medicine, and emerging infectious diseases.

