

**Teresa C. Long, MD, MPH**  
**Health Commissioner**  
**Columbus Public Health**

Teresa C. Long, MD, MPH, has served as Columbus' Health Commissioner since her appointment by Mayor Michael Coleman and the Columbus Board of Health in 2002, when she became the first female Health Commissioner for Columbus. With more than 800,000 patients under her care, Dr. Long has worked to bring health equity to those marginalized by racism and discrimination through innovative programming. A true visionary, Dr. Long established an Office for Minority Health – the first of its kind at any health department in the state. In addition, she used her unique ability to bring community partners together to address specific health disparities through the award winning PBS series, *Unnatural Causes*. By organizing town hall meetings, she started a local dialogue focusing on how the issues of housing, poverty, infrastructure, employment and race affect the health of our community. Dr. Long's most recent effort has been setting up a comprehensive response to H1N1 influenza virus and pandemic, which includes the largest mass vaccination community clinics in recent history.

Dr. Long has a passion for community service and currently serves on the American Heart Association Board of Trustees, the American Cancer Society Board of Directors, The Ohio State Medical Association and the Columbus Medical Association Foundation Board of Trustees. Additionally, she was a founding member of Access Health Columbus, the Central Ohio Trauma System and the Physicians Free Clinic, which serves thousands of under- and uninsured people every year. Dr. Long also promotes healthy, active lifestyles through the Institute for Active Living and Urban Farmers Markets, which bring fresh foods to underserved women and children.

In recognition of her work, Dr. Long has received many awards, including the first Elizabeth Blackwell Award for Pioneering Efforts to Improve Women's and Community Health, Outstanding Woman in Government, and the Columbus Medical Association's Community Service Award and President's Award.

Dr. Long has a daughter, Katherine (13), with whom she spends most of her free time. Together, they ride horses, bike, hike in Columbus' Metroparks, and walk their standard poodle, Shadow. The entire family enjoys time at their remote cottage in Northern Ontario, where they swim, kayak, and enjoy nature.

Dr. Long passionately values all people and fulfills her life's work with respect and compassion for every person she serves. Believing in the power of shared responsibility, she inspires a new generation of young people to step up when they have the chance to make a difference. She puts this belief into action by seeing each day as an opportunity to improve the health, safety and well-being of our community – a legacy she shares with her family, her colleagues and the people she serves.