



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
AND MENTAL HYGIENE**

Michelle Morse, MD, MPH  
Acting Commissioner

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**STATEMENT FROM NYC HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACTING COMMISSIONER  
DR. MICHELLE MORSE WELCOMING DR. ALISTER MARTIN AS THE CITY'S  
NEW HEALTH COMMISSIONER**

**NEW YORK** — Today, New York City Health Department Acting Commissioner and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Michelle Morse issued the following statement welcoming Mayor Zohran Mamdani's appointment of Dr. Alister Martin as Commissioner of the New York City Health Department:

*"The New York City Health Department welcomes Dr. Martin as its new commissioner.*

*For the last 15 months, I had the honor of leading the New York City Health Department, the oldest and largest local health department in the United States, through many challenges locally and nationally. While the Trump administration attempted to dismantle federal public health infrastructure and undermined science, our team of thousands of public health workers answered the call to protect New Yorkers and champion public health.*

*I am so proud of how we rose to meet the challenge, all while advancing local public health interventions that focus on equity. During my tenure, life expectancy in New York City rose to its highest-ever level; we put forward an anti-poverty agenda for chronic disease prevention; we launched the city's first ever neighborhood stress free zone to protect maternal health, and released a plan to increase our team of community health workers to 10,000 people by 2030 to advance health equity in our city. I am perhaps most proud of serving with integrity, preventing over \$100 million in federal funding from being rescinded, and advancing our health equity and racial justice agenda despite federal attacks.*

*This work was always far larger than any one person: it did not begin with me, and it does not end with me. I look forward to working with Commissioner Martin as he prepares to lead the best health department in the world. As an impactful physician leader, I know he appreciates the extraordinary work of the thousands of staff who every day live our mission to protect and promote the health of all New Yorkers.*

*Although this chapter is coming to a close, my work is not done. As a public servant and doctor, I will continue to bend the arc of history toward justice—and I know my colleagues at the Health Department will do the same."*



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