

Lisa Gargano, PhD, MPH

Chief of the Office of Immunization
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Dr. Lisa Gargano is the Chief of the Office of Immunization at the Rhode Island Department of Health, where she leads statewide immunization strategy and preparedness efforts. With a PhD in Immunology and an MPH in Epidemiology from Emory University, Dr. Gargano brings over 15 years of experience in public health and research, spanning infectious disease, mental health, substance use, and disaster epidemiology.

Her career has taken her through every level of government—local, state, federal, and international—shaping a deep understanding of the complexities and opportunities within public health systems. Notably, she founded the Vaccine Equity and Confidence Unit within the Office of Immunization, a pioneering initiative aimed at building trust and improving access to vaccines in communities most at risk.