

Daniel Jernigan, MD MPH
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Daniel Jernigan, MD MPH, is an internationally recognized public health leader with over three decades of experience in medical epidemiology, complex outbreak response, and infectious disease prevention. During his career at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), he served in multiple leadership roles, most recently as Director of the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, overseeing the agency's largest portfolio of high-consequence pathogens, vectorborne, fungal, parasitic, and foodborne illnesses, antimicrobial resistance, and healthcare-associated infections. He also directed the Influenza Division for six years. He has been instrumental in innovations advancing genomic sequencing, diagnostics, public health informatics, and supporting state health departments to strengthen their capacity to respond to infectious threats.

Dr. Jernigan began his CDC career in the Epidemic Intelligence Service in 1994 and went on to lead investigations and responses to major public health emergencies, including anthrax, SARS, H1N1, Ebola, MERS, and COVID-19. He has authored more than 160 scientific publications and chapters, earned multiple awards such as the Service to America Medal, and retired as a Captain (O-6) in the U.S. Public Health Service before continuing at CDC in civil service. He is a graduate of Duke University, Baylor College of Medicine, and the University of Texas School of Public Health and has completed residencies in Internal Medicine and Preventive Medicine. Dr. Jernigan retired in 2025 and is currently a contributing scholar at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.