Lisa Waddell, MD, MPH
Chief Medical Officer

Lisa F. Waddell is the chief medical officer for the CDC Foundation, an independent nonprofit and the sole entity created by Congress to mobilize philanthropic and private-sector resources to support the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s critical health protection work. Waddell reports to Dr. Judith Monroe, president and CEO of the CDC Foundation.

As chief medical officer (CMO), Waddell manages the Foundation’s COVID-19 response efforts, including directing the team of senior advisors, who are providing support to health departments across the nation, and the COVID-19 Corps surge staff hired as part of the response. Waddell serves on the Foundation’s executive team.

Before joining the CDC Foundation in 2020, Waddell served as deputy chief medical and health officer and the senior vice president for Maternal and Child Health Impact nationwide. Prior to the March of Dimes, Waddell worked with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials) as chief of community health and prevention. Before this role, she served as deputy commissioner for Health Services for the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, the state’s public health agency. In addition to these roles, Waddell served as a local public health director for a four-county district in South Carolina and as the deputy public health director/medical director in Richmond, VA.

Waddell is a leader in public health as a preventive medicine and public health physician with over 28 years of local, state and national public health leadership experience. She has a passion for public health and is committed to promoting and protecting the health of populations. She has a particular interest in addressing the needs of vulnerable populations, needs of moms and babies, and those with disparate health outcomes.

Waddell received her doctor of medicine from the Medical College of Virginia and a bachelor’s in biology from the University of Virginia. She completed her residency in preventive medicine/public health from the Medical College of Virginia, and she received her master’s in public health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is a graduate of the National Public Health Leadership Institute. She is a member of several professional organizations including the American College of Preventive Medicine, the American Public Health Association, the National Medical Association and the South Carolina Public Health Association.