

**From:** Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD)  
**Sent:** Fri, 5 May 2023 19:55:07 +0000  
**To:** Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD)  
**Subject:** CDC Leadership Update

Dear HHS colleagues:

The end of the COVID-19 public health emergency marks a tremendous transition for our country, for public health, and in my tenure as CDC Director. I took on this role with the goal of leaving behind the dark days of the pandemic and moving CDC – and public health – forward into a much better and more trusted place.

As you have likely heard by now, having worked together to accomplish so much over the last two-plus years, it is with mixed emotions that I will step down as CDC Director on June 30, 2023.

During my tenure as CDC director the agency saw so many successes. We moved CDC forward, reorganizing the agency and embarking on the necessary work to change culture and foster accountability, timeliness, and transparency in our work. We bolstered our public health infrastructure, established pipelines to grow the public health workforce, launched a center for forecasting and outbreak analytics, and secured hundreds of millions of dollars to begin the hard work of modernizing our data infrastructure. I have never been prouder of work I have done in my professional career. My tenure at CDC will remain forever the most cherished time I have spent doing hard, necessary, and impactful work.

Between now and the end of June, I look forward to connecting, saying a proper goodbye, and exchanging contact information.

With deepest gratitude and respect,

Rochelle

**From:** Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD)  
**Sent:** Fri, 5 May 2023 14:52:09 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Attachments:** Letter Dated May 5 2023.pdf

Dear Jeff,

Attached, please find my letter of resignation to President Biden.

We are continuing to work with your staff on the rollout plan; the embargo will be lifted at 12:30PM (after the open portion of the President's event).

Rochelle



May 5, 2023

President Joseph Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

I would like to start by thanking you for giving me the opportunity to serve my country and for providing me with the greatest honor of my lifetime, serving as the 19<sup>th</sup> Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Administrator of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

The end of the COVID-19 public health emergency marks a tremendous transition for our country, for public health, and in my tenure as CDC Director. I took on this role, at your request, with the goal of leaving behind the dark days of the pandemic and moving CDC – and public health – forward into a much better and more trusted place. At this pivotal moment for our nation and public health, having worked together to accomplish so much over the last nearly two and a half years, it is with mixed emotions that I will step down as CDC Director effective June 30, 2023.

During my tenure as CDC Director, and with your leadership, the country and the agency saw so many successes. We administered over 670 million COVID-19 vaccines and provided clinical guidance for vaccines of all ages, booster doses, and the next generation, bivalent series. In the process, we saved and improved lives and protected the country and the world from the greatest infectious disease threat we have seen in over 100 years.

Ten weeks into this position, I declared racism a serious public health threat that directly affects the well-being of millions of Americans. Of course, CDC has long recognized that racism is the root cause of many health disparities. Now we, along with over 200 state and local health departments, have recommitted ourselves to the work of addressing structural factors of racism, discrimination, and historical disenfranchisement that deeply impact the health of the communities we live in. I also launched CORE – an agency-wide strategy to integrate equity into the work we do across CDC – transforming our public health research, surveillance, and implementation science efforts to identify and confront the drivers of these disparities.

At the same time, we also successfully addressed a multinational mpox outbreak, contained the spread of Ebola in Uganda, and responded to countless infectious disease threats in countries around the globe. Together, we made this world a safer place. We bolstered our public health infrastructure, established pipelines to grow the public health workforce, launched a center for forecasting and outbreak analytics, and secured hundreds of millions of dollars to begin the hard work of modernizing our nation's data

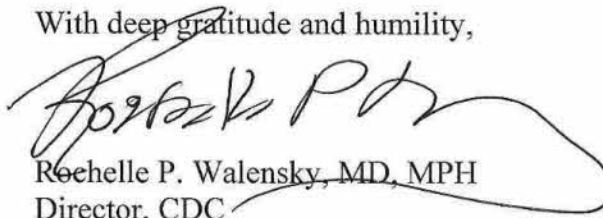
infrastructure. We collectively moved CDC and public health forward, reorganizing the agency and embarking on the necessary work to change culture and foster accountability, timeliness, and transparency in the work of public health.

We did all of this because of your leadership and because of the people of CDC who work tirelessly to serve the nation and the world. As Director, I had the true gift of meeting, working with, and giving voice to CDC's thousands of people who work 24/7 to worry about health and public health so that the rest of the nation does not have to.

I have never been prouder of anything I have done in my professional career. My tenure at CDC will remain forever the most cherished time I have spent doing hard, necessary, and impactful work.

I am honored and so grateful for the opportunity you provided.

With deep gratitude and humility,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rochelle P. Walensky", with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH  
Director, CDC

Administrator, Agency for Toxic Substances  
and Disease Registry

**From:** Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD)  
**Sent:** Fri, 5 May 2023 19:53:02 +0000  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: CONFIDENTIAL

This has been an honor of a lifetime...will look forward to connecting before I depart. We have time.  
Thank you so much,  
Rochelle

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 5, 2023 1:10 PM  
**To:** Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: CONFIDENTIAL

Rochelle, thank you for doing everything with class.

Xavier

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**From:** Walensky, Rochelle (CDC/OD) <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 5, 2023 10:52:09 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** CONFIDENTIAL

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Rochelle