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# Anne Schuchat

**Anne Schuchat** (born 1960) is an American medical doctor. She is a former rear admiral and assistant surgeon general in the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. She also served as the principal deputy director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).<sup>[3][4]</sup> In May 2021, Schuchat stepped down from her post.<sup>[5]</sup>

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## Early life and education

Schuchat grew up in a Jewish family in Washington, D.C., the fourth of five children.<sup>[6][7]</sup> Her grandfather was a kosher butcher from West Virginia.<sup>[7]</sup> Schuchat graduated with highest honors from Swarthmore College in 1980 and graduated with honors from Dartmouth Medical School in 1984.<sup>[1][2][8]</sup>

## Career

Schuchat served as resident and chief resident in internal medicine at New York University's Manhattan V.A. Hospital before beginning her public health career at CDC as an Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officer in NCID.<sup>[9]</sup>

### Anne Schuchat



Official portrait, 2018

### **Principal Deputy Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

#### **In office**

September 2015 – May 2021

**President** Barack Obama  
Donald Trump  
Joe Biden

**Preceded by** Ileana Arias

**Succeeded by** Debra Houry  
(acting)

### **Acting Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

#### **In office**

January 31, 2018 – March 26, 2018

**President** Donald Trump

**Preceded by** Brenda Fitzgerald



Schuchat at work in the mid-1990s.

Having worked with the CDC on immunization, respiratory, and other infectious diseases since 1988, she served as the Interim Deputy Director for Science and Public Health at the CDC from February 2009 to June 2009. She has also held other posts in the CDC.<sup>[9]</sup>

During the 2001 anthrax attacks, Schuchat served on CDC's Anthrax Emergency Response Team, which was tasked with investigating the attacks.<sup>[1]</sup>

From February 2009 to June 2009, Schuchat was the Interim Deputy Director for Science and Public Health Program at the CDC, where she focused on ensuring strong science and programmatic approaches were effectively integrated into planning across the agency. She has emphasized prevention of infectious diseases in children. Her emphasis on perinatal group B streptococcal disease prevention has led to an 80 percent reduction in newborn infections and a 75 percent narrowing of racial disparities among sufferers of this infectious disease. She has been instrumental in pre- and post-licensure evaluations of conjugate vaccines for bacterial meningitis and pneumonia and in accelerating availability of these new vaccines in resource-poor countries through WHO and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization.<sup>[9]</sup>

From January 20, 2017 through July 7, 2017, Schuchat served as Acting Director of the CDC (and as acting Administrator for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry) and again from January 31, 2018 through March 26, 2018, when she was succeeded by Robert R. Redfield as Director.<sup>[10][11][12]</sup>

Schuchat has been active in the CDC's efforts to combat the 2020 Coronavirus outbreak in the United States. In a February 25, 2020 HHS briefing on the "China coronavirus" she famously stated "It's very important to say that our efforts at containment so far have worked, and the virus is actually contained here in the United States."<sup>[13]</sup> A May 1, 2020 CDC report authored by Schuchat noted that based on this containment belief federal and local jurisdictions did not recommend restrictions on gatherings, and that several large events consequently held at the end of February played a notable role in the spread of COVID-19 in the United States.<sup>[14]</sup>

## In popular culture

<b>Succeeded by</b>	<u>Robert R. Redfield</u>
<b>In office</b>	January 20, 2017 – July 7, 2017
<b>President</b>	Donald Trump
<b>Preceded by</b>	<u>Tom Frieden</u>
<b>Succeeded by</b>	Brenda Fitzgerald
<b>Personal details</b>	
<b>Born</b>	1960 (age 61–62)
<b>Education</b>	<u>Swarthmore College (BS)</u> <u>Dartmouth College (MD)</u>
<b>Website</b>	Government website ( <a href="https://cdc.gov/about/leadership/leaders/pdd.html">https://cdc.gov/about/leadership/leaders/pdd.html</a> )
<b>Military service</b>	
<b>Allegiance</b>	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> United States
<b>Branch/service</b>	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> U.S. Public Health Service
<b>Years of service</b>	1999–2018
<b>Rank</b>	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> Rear admiral
<b>Unit</b>	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> PHS Commissioned Corps
<b>Commands</b>	<u>Anthrax Emergency Response Team</u> <sup>[1]</sup> <u>National Center for Immunization and</u>

- The fictional character of Erin Mears in the 2011 film *Contagion* is partially based on Schuchat and her career. British actress Kate Winslet, who portrays the character, consulted with Schuchat in the process of preparing for the role.<sup>[15]</sup>

## Personal life

Schuchat is married and has no children; she has three brothers and one sister.<sup>[6][7]</sup> In May 2005, Schuchat received an honorary doctorate in science from Swarthmore College, from which she graduated in 1980.<sup>[1][8][9]</sup>

## Awards and decorations

- 2005: Swarthmore College, Honorary Doctorate in Science<sup>[1][8][9]</sup>
- American Public Health Association, Maternal and Child Health Young Investigator Award<sup>[9]</sup>
- United States Public Health Service, USPHS Physician Research Officer of the Year<sup>[9]</sup>

## United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps



<b>1st row</b>	<u>Public Health Service Meritorious Service Medal</u>	<u>Public Health Service Outstanding Service Medal</u> <sup>[16]</sup>	
<b>2nd row</b>	<u>Public Health Service Commendation Medal</u>	<u>Public Health Service Achievement Medal</u>	<u>Public Health Service Outstanding Unit Citation</u> <sup>[17]</sup>
<b>3rd row</b>	<u>Public Health Service Unit Commendation</u>	<u>Public Health Service Bicentennial Unit Commendation Award</u>	<u>Public Health Service Foreign Duty Service Award</u>
<b>4th row</b>	<u>Public Health Service Crisis Response Service Award</u>	<u>Public Health Service Regular Corps Ribbon</u>	<u>Commissioned Officers Association</u>

## Selected works and publications

- Schuchat, Anne; Robinson, Katherine; Wenger, Jay D.; Harrison, Lee H.; Farley, Monica; Reingold, Arthur L.; Lefkowitz, Lewis; Perkins, Bradley A. (October 2, 1997).

Respiratory Diseases  
 Interim Deputy Director for Science and Public Health

**Battles/wars**
2001 anthrax attacks  
SARS outbreak  
2009 flu pandemic<sup>[2]</sup>

- "Bacterial Meningitis in the United States in 1995" (<https://doi.org/10.1056%2FNEJM199710023371404>). *New England Journal of Medicine*. **337** (14): 970–976. doi:10.1056/NEJM199710023371404 (<https://doi.org/10.1056%2FNEJM199710023371404>). ISSN 0028-4793 (<https://www.worldcat.org/issn/0028-4793>). PMID 9395430 (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/9395430>).  Wikidata ()
- Jernigan, Daniel B.; Raghunathan, Pratima L.; Bell, Beth P.; Brechner, Ross; Bresnitz, Eddy A.; Butler, Jay C.; Cetron, Marty; Cohen, Mitch; Doyle, Timothy; Fischer, Marc; Greene, Carolyn; Griffith, Kevin S.; Guarner, Jeannette; Hadler, James L.; Hayslett, James A.; Meyer, Richard; Petersen, Lyle R.; Phillips, Michael; Pinner, Robert; Popovic, Tanja; Quinn, Conrad P.; Reefhuis, Jennita; Reissman, Dori; Rosenstein, Nancy; Schuchat, Anne; Shieh, Wun-Ju; Siegal, Larry; Swerdlow, David L.; Tenover, Fred C.; Traeger, Marc; Ward, John W.; Weisfuse, Isaac; Wiersma, Steven; Yeskey, Kevin; Zaki, Sherif; Ashford, David A.; Perkins, Bradley A.; Ostroff, Steve; Hughes, James; Fleming, David; Koplan, Jeffrey P.; Gerberding, Julie L. (October 2002). "Investigation of Bioterrorism-Related Anthrax, United States, 2001: Epidemiologic Findings" (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2730292>). *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. **8** (10): 1019–1028. doi:10.3201/EID0810.020353 (<https://doi.org/10.3201%2FEID0810.020353>). PMC 2730292 (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2730292>). PMID 12396909 (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/12396909>).  Wikidata ()
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## External links

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- Official website (<https://www.cdc.gov/about/leadership/leaders/pdd.html>) 
  - Appearances (<https://www.c-span.org/person/?anneschuchat>) on C-SPAN
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