

NEWS

Thomas Dobbs, state health officer, resigning in July to return to clinical side of medicine



Maria Clark

Mississippi Clarion Ledger

Published 1:28 p.m. **CT March 8, 2022** | Updated 1:33 p.m. CT March 8, 2022

Mississippi State Health Officer Thomas Dobbs announced Tuesday that he will resign his position at the end of July.

Dobbs has been with the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) since 2008 fulfilling multiple roles including district health officer, state epidemiologist, and deputy state health officer.

During the last two years, he led the state's public health campaign to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

In a press release issued by the health department, Dobbs said he wants to step back into academia and teach healthcare professionals about public health and infectious disease.

"I feel like the time is right for me to return to the clinical side of medicine, particularly the communicable disease treatment of patients," Dobbs said. "I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at MSDH, particularly working with this dedicated health staff and advancing the field of health equity in Mississippi."

Dobbs has also served in various roles related to public health including medical director for the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, clinical consultant for the Southeastern National TB Center, and infectious disease consultant for several hospitals in Mississippi.

Previous coverage: Dobbs: 'A challenging season' ahead as COVID-19 cases rise and flu kicks up in Mississippi

In other news: Fun facts about purple martins. Spoiler alert: What grandma told you probably isn't true

Dr. Daniel P. Edney, a graduate of the University of Mississippi Medical School, has been named deputy state health officer. He has served as chief medical officer at the Mississippi State Department of Health for the past year and worked closely with Dobbs during the pandemic conducting outreach and providing guidance to other physicians.

The Board will take up the issue of interim state health officer in one of its upcoming meetings, according to the statement.

Maria Clark is a general assignment reporter with The American South. Story ideas, tips, questions? Email her at mclark@gannett.com or follow her on Twitter @MariaPClark1. Sign up for The American South newsletter. Follow us on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.