

May 26, 2020

The Honorable Doug Burgum
600 East Boulevard
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505

RE: Resignation as State Health Officer

Dear Governor Burgum,

I wanted to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve as North Dakota's State Health Officer. I've been able to lead an amazing team through a period of transition, growth and the current COVID-19 pandemic. As we have initiated the ND Smart Restart plan and continue to move to a new normal, I feel it is time for me to return to the private sector. Please accept my letter of resignation as State Health Officer effective June 1, 2020. During this time of transition, I would be happy to stay on in an advisory capacity for three weeks to ensure continuity of operations.

During my tenure, we accomplished many milestones. We completed the separation that formed the Department of Environmental Quality. The North Dakota Department of Health team wrote the administrative rules to safely administer and regulate the Medical Marijuana industry in North Dakota. We were able to launch the Count the Kicks Program to help decrease the number of stillbirths in North Dakota. I'm proud to have been a part of Team ND that has been making a difference in the health and wellness of so many North Dakotans.

Since the beginning of the declared emergency for Coronavirus, the North Dakota Department of Health has worked diligently to protect the health and safety of our citizens. The State Public Health Lab has increased their capability from 195 tests per day to over 2,000 tests per day. The Division of Disease Control has increased the efficiency and effectiveness of contact tracers through the development and implementation of several new technologies. The ND Department of Health has provided guidance and education to thousands of individuals that have called the Public Health Hotline and several other businesses. We have provided pallets of essential PPE to hospitals, long-term care facilities, dentists, and other healthcare providers. There are many more heroes who have played a part in the innovations and successes we have experienced during this pandemic. It has truly been a whole-of-government, whole-of-community effort to save lives and livelihoods.

I couldn't be more proud of the Health Department team or of being a part of your administration.

Sincerely,



Mylynn K. Tufte, MBA, MSIM, RN