

# Office of the Governor

PO BOX 004  
TRENTON, NJ 08625

## NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor  
Wendi Patella  
609-777-2600

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### **Governor Whitman Nominates New Health Commissioner; Christine Grant Available to Press Today at 3:30 p.m.**

Gov. Christie Whitman today announced her intention to nominate Christine Grant to become her next Commissioner of the Department of Health and Senior Services.

Grant, who will assume the post in early April, is vice president of public policy and business at Pasteur Merieux Connaught, the world's largest vaccine and biologicals company, located in northeast Pennsylvania. She also previously worked as senior director of public policy for Merck & Co.

Grant was previously named as Deputy Commissioner at the Department of Health by Gov. Tom Kean and was responsible for managed ambulatory and acute care reimbursement, substance abuse and HIV treatment, CDC studies, and maternal and child health.

"The work of the Department of Health and Senior Services touches the lives of every New Jerseyan, from infants receiving vaccinations to senior citizens making decisions about long-term care," Gov. Whitman said. "Chris Grant's experience in the public and private sectors will be invaluable for the people of this state."

The Department of Health and Senior Services is charged with protecting public health and serves 1.4 million senior citizens over the age of 60. It has 1,800 employees and a nearly \$2 billion budget.

"I look forward to continuing the work of the Whitman administration in protecting the public health for all New Jerseyans. Moving forward with the Governor's commitment to develop more long-term care options for our seniors and developing a long-term plan for strengthening the state's public health system, will be among my top priorities," Grant said.

"We need to listen to our hospitals and the medical community to be certain they are best positioned for the next century," she added.

Grant's nomination was welcomed by the New Jersey Medical Society. "She brings an extraordinary range and depth of experience and is clearly qualified to meet the challenges of tobacco control, HMO performance, charity care and improving the public health infrastructure," said R. Gregory Sachs, MD, the president of MSNJ.

She holds an MBA from the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania and a law degree from Rutgers School of Law in Newark.

Grant will replace Len Fishman, who resigned to become the president and chief executive officer of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging in Washington, D.C.

A resident of Princeton, Grant is married to Michael Halpern. The couple has two sons, Ian, 22, and Nate, 15.

She serves on the boards of the Spry Foundation; the Pocono Medical Center in East Stroudsburg, Pa.; the National Partnership for Prevention, and the Princeton Day School.

Christine Grant will be available to speak to reporters at a 3:30 p.m. press availability at the State House, third floor Conference Room.