NYC Health Commissioner Thomas Frieden Appointed to Head CDC

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President Barack Obama announced May 15 that New York City Health Commissioner Thomas R. Frieden will be the next director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), *The New York Times* reports.

In his seven years working for Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Frieden—an infectious disease specialist—led the city's ban against smoking in restaurants and bars, pushed to make HIV tests a routine part of medical exams (a recommendation the city—and state—have not yet taken) and championed a program that passes out more than 35 million free condoms throughout the city each year.

"I think the administration selected Tom Frieden because he can take public health to a new place," said Jeffrey Levi, executive director of Trust for America's Health, a public health advocacy organization. "He's a transformational leader."

According to the article, Frieden is expected to take office next month.

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