

# A note of appreciation and a warm welcome to Dr. Cara Christ

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2022 has roared in with yet another wave of serious COVID-19 illness and hospitalizations. As we continue standing together against this virus, I'm once again moved by and grateful for all you do each day to help people overcome the physical, social, and mental challenges this pandemic has triggered.

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Although many of you already know Dr. Cara Christ from her previous role in Arizona public health, I invite you to join me in formally welcoming her as the Chief Medical Officer for Blue Cross® Blue Shield® of Arizona (BCBSAZ). I have been working closely with Cara over the past few months and am truly honored that she has chosen to join our team. Her experience as Director of the Arizona Department of Health Services translates to keen insights about what's important for Arizona before, during, and beyond the pandemic. She has become known for thinking big, approaching health strategically, and leveraging the best of medicine and science to improve life and health for Arizonans.

## Here are a few things you may not know about Cara:

- She has lived in Arizona for 30 years and received her Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Arizona.
- She also holds a master's degree from Arizona State University in microbiology, with an emphasis on molecular virology and public health.

- She, her husband, and their three school-age children share a passion for everything Disney. In fact, Cara enjoys participating in *runDisney* half-marathons each year, and she also holds a “Ducktorate” from Disney University in Disney-style management.
- She wholeheartedly embraces the BCBSAZ commitment to designing a future where healthcare is more affordable, convenient, and personalized for members, providers, and employers.

Recently, Cara shared this:

*“I’m impressed by the quality of the BCBSAZ provider network and excited about partnering with providers to improve the health of our members and communities. While the last two years were difficult, the COVID-19 pandemic introduced many innovative strategies to our healthcare system. This has opened a unique opportunity to design a healthcare future that advances health by making care more convenient, personalized, and affordable. I’m thrilled to be on this journey with BCBSAZ and I look forward to being in touch with our provider network to learn more.”*

I also want to acknowledge the work of Dr. James Napoli, who has transitioned to the role of Chief Pharmacy Officer and VP of Clinical Therapeutics for BCBSAZ. Jim and Cara have been working closely together and will continue to do so as we move toward our shared vision of inspiring health and making it easy.

Again, thank you for your partnership in service to our members and working with us to inspire health across Arizona.

Pam Kehaly  
Chief Executive Officer  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona



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