Dr. Nirav R. Shah is the 15th Commissioner of the New York State Department of Health. A native of Buffalo, he graduated with honors from Harvard College, and has an MD and MPH in medicine and chronic disease epidemiology from Yale University. He is board certified in internal medicine and is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

As commissioner, Dr. Shah heads one of the world's leading public health agencies with an annual budget of more than $55 billion. The Department regulates more than 200 hospitals, administers the state's public health insurance programs for over 5 million New Yorkers, oversees more than 80,000 NY state licensed doctors, administers the state health insurance marketplace (exchange), runs a premier biomedical laboratory, and supports public health and prevention initiatives.

During Dr. Shah’s tenure, the Department led the transformation of the state’s Medicaid program, which resulted in more than $4 billion in savings in just the first year while improving population health and quality of care. The Department also spearheaded the creation of the most successful state-run Health Insurance Exchange in the country, which will give 1.1 million New Yorkers health insurance coverage.