



Linda Bell

Dr. Linda Bell is originally from El Paso, Texas. Her parents, Wesley and Gladys Wilson, encouraged her early interest in science, eventually leading her to seek a degree in Molecular Biology from the University of Texas at Austin, and later, a medical degree from UT Southwestern at Dallas, where she also completed training in internal medicine. She was one of only five African Americans in her medical school class of 200, and the only African American in her internal medicine residency program.

Dr. Bell's interest in infectious diseases led her to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) program. While participating in an investigation of Lassa Fever in Nigeria as an EIS Officer, Dr. Bell was moved by the lack of basic medical care and the effect on populations. Her experiences with the CDC led her to change her career path to public health.

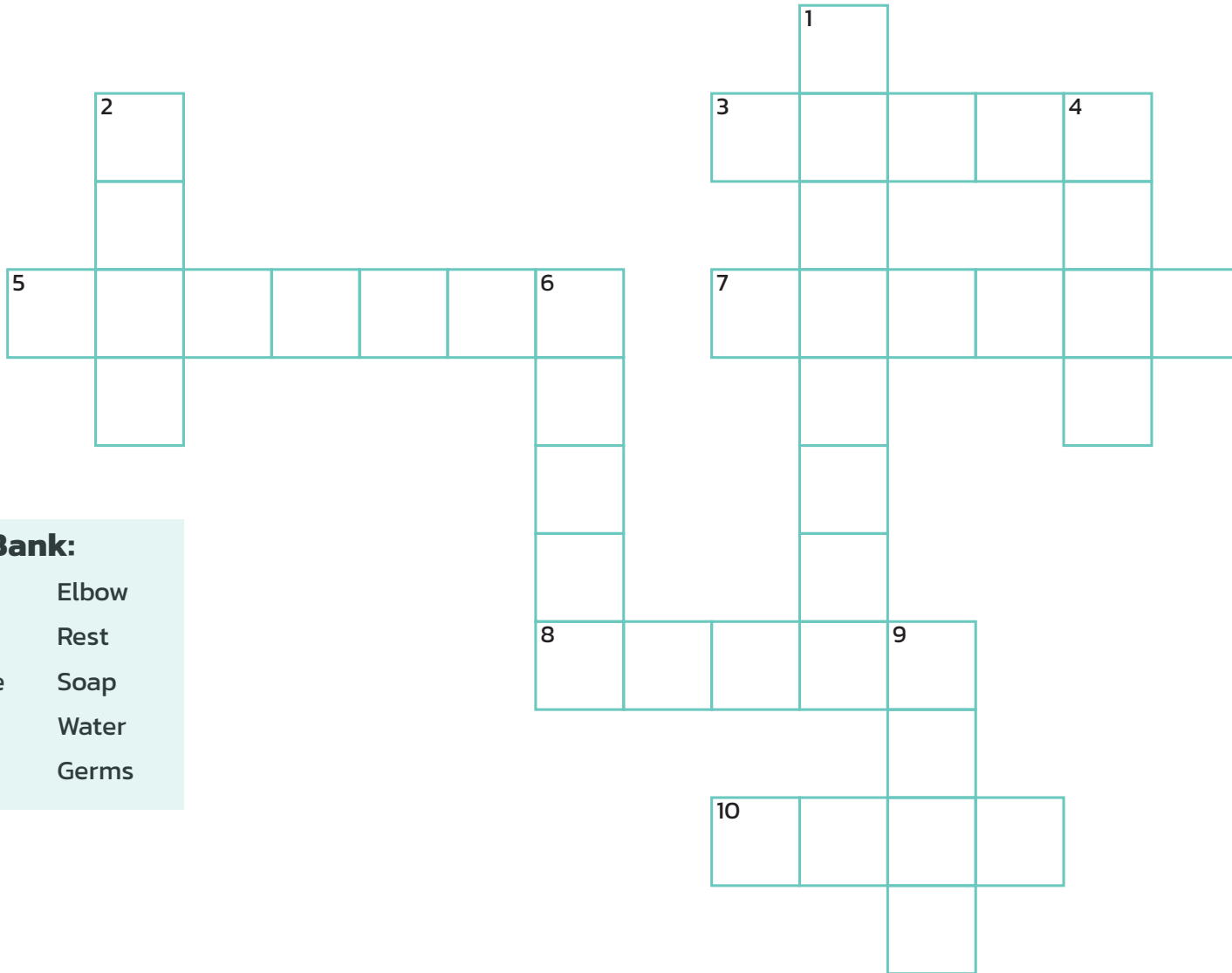
Since joining the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) in 1994, Dr. Bell has served in several roles. She became the State Epidemiologist in 2013, and Director of the Bureau of Communicable Disease Prevention and Control in 2016, providing oversight for programs in infectious diseases; immunizations; Tuberculosis; and STD/HIV. She has served on the boards of EdVenture Children's Museum, Healthy Learners, Heathwood Hall Episcopal School, and Francis Burns United Methodist Church.

Dr. Bell has served a prominent role throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, providing science-based public education and shedding light on longstanding health disparities that contributed to the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on African Americans. For her efforts, Dr. Bell has been recognized by the Urban League; the NAACP; the SC Public Health Association; the Palmetto Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association; and various other organizations.

2022

*South Carolina
African American History Calendar*

Read the clues below and write the correct answer from the word bank in the crossword puzzle.



Word Bank:

Wash	Elbow
Tissue	Rest
Medicine	Soap
Soup	Water
Vaccine	Germs

Across

- 3. These cause you to get sick.
- 5. A shot that prevents you from getting sick.
- 7. Nose wiper.
- 8. Drink lots of this to stay hydrated when sick.
- 10. _____ your hands frequently.

Down

- 1. Take this to make you feel better.
- 2. Always wash your hands with _____ and water.
- 4. A good thing to eat when you're sick.
- 6. Where you should cough/sneeze.
- 9. What to do when you're not feeling well.

Answer the following questions from Dr. Linda Bell's bio.

1. What does CDC stand for?

- A. Certified Disc Changer
- B. Candy Dinner Comittee
- C. Center for Disease Control
- D. Comittee for Discovery Candidates

2. When did Dr. Bell join DHEC?

- A. 1994
- B. 1987
- C. 2020
- D. 2006

3. On which of the following boards has Dr. Bell served for?

- A. EdVenture Children's Museum
- B. Healthy Learners
- C. Heathwood Hall Episcopal School
- D. All of the above

4. Dr. Bell served as an EIS officer in Nigeria. What did she study?

- A. Lions
- B. Lassa Fever
- C. Tuberculosis
- D. Soil

5. What did Dr. Bell study at the University of Texas?

- A. Molecular Biology
- B. Music
- C. History
- D. Chemistry