A Proclamation

Whereas, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) ranks vaccination among the most significant public health achievements of the 20th century; and

Whereas, A 2020 study found that due to the pandemic, teens and adults may have missed more than 26 million doses of recommended vaccines in 2020; and

Whereas, A study in November 2020 by Blue Cross Blue Shield estimated 9 million childhood vaccination doses may have been missed by the end of 2020 due to the pandemic, raising the very real possibility of the development of a secondary outbreak of infectious disease; and

Whereas, Ensuring that routine vaccination is maintained or reinitiated during the COVID-19 pandemic is essential for protecting individuals and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases and outbreaks; and

Whereas, Young children and older adults are particularly vulnerable to vaccine-preventable diseases until they can be fully immunized; and

Whereas, The vaccination of children born in the United States between 1994 and 2018 will prevent 419 million illnesses, 936,000 deaths and $1.9 trillion in total societal costs; and

Whereas, Vaccines are demonstrated to be an exceptionally safe method to prevent disease, as they are thoroughly tested before licensing and carefully monitored to ensure safety; and

Whereas, The state of Massachusetts strives to protect all its residents, both young and old, from preventable diseases,

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim August 2022, to be,

IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of August, in the year two thousand and twenty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-sixth.

By His Excellency

Charles Baker
Governor of the Commonwealth

Kevin E. Polito
Lt. Governor of the Commonwealth

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts