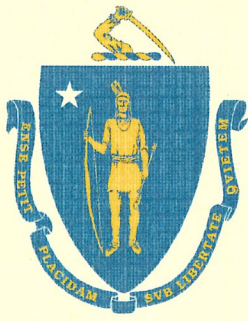


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

Whereas, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), efforts to reduce transmission of COVID-19, such as stay-at-home and shelter-in-place orders, have led many parents and caregivers to forego taking their children to see their health care providers for critical well child visits where they would receive their scheduled immunizations; 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, In a recent letter to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, the American Academy of Pediatrics stated its concern over reports that immunization rates among children had dropped 60 - 80% during the pandemic raising the very real possibility of the development of a secondary outbreak of infectious disease; and

Whereas, Young children 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 is estimated to 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; and

Whereas, Massachusetts encourages that all vaccines due or overdue should be administered according to the recommended CDC immunization schedules; and

Whereas, Massachusetts will work to increase influenza vaccination rates in order to ease unnecessary burdens on healthcare systems and comorbidities during the upcoming fall and winter flu season; and

Whereas, Massachusetts will prepare the state for the arrival of COVID-19 vaccine(s); and

Whereas, Massachusetts supports a strong and vital immunization program,

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim August, 2020, 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, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fourth.

HIS EXCELLENCY

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

KARYN E. POLITO
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts