

THURSTON COUNTY

Proclamation

HIV and AIDS Awareness Month

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day is December 1st, this day brings together organizations and individuals across the globe to focus attention on the HIV epidemic, increase HIV awareness and knowledge, speak out against HIV stigma, and call for action to end the HIV epidemic; and

WHEREAS, World AIDS Day has been observed since 1988 with a 2019 theme of “Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic: Community by Community”; and

WHEREAS, AIDS stands for Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome and is caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), which attacks the immune system, damaging the body’s ability to fight disease and infection; and

WHEREAS, HIV can be prevented in many ways including taking medication to reduce your risk called PrEP (HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis), using condoms, limiting sexual partners, reducing risk from injection drug use; and

WHEREAS, though there is no cure currently for HIV, effective treatment exists and with proper medical care the disease can be controlled; and

WHEREAS, stigma is negative attitudes and beliefs about people living with HIV and remains a major barrier for people to get tested for HIV, get treatment and other care they need after being diagnosed with HIV, and contributes to those living with HIV and AIDS feeling lonely and being isolated; and

WHEREAS, in Thurston County over 300 residents are living with HIV and on average, 8 county residents are newly diagnosed each year with HIV.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Health hereby proclaims **December as HIV and AIDS Awareness Month** in Thurston County, and urges all residents to learn more about HIV and AIDS, to get tested as part of routine healthcare, take steps to prevent getting or transmitting HIV and AIDS, and to work to reduce the negative impacts of stigma in our community. We can all help end HIV and AIDS stigma through our words and actions in our everyday lives.

Adopted this 10th day of December, 2019

BOARD OF HEALTH



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Ray Edward

