

THURSTON COUNTY

Proclamation

Immunization Awareness Month

WHEREAS, Immunization Awareness Month highlights the important role vaccines play in preventing serious, sometimes deadly, diseases across the lifespan; and

WHEREAS, vaccines are one of the greatest achievements of the past century in protecting the public's health, dramatically reducing the number of deaths from preventable diseases and increasing overall life expectancy; and

WHEREAS, nationally for every birth cohort of children receiving the recommended vaccines there are 33,000 lives saved, 14 million cases of disease prevented and \$9.9 billion in direct health care costs saved; and

WHEREAS, when people are unvaccinated, outbreaks of diseases like pertussis (whooping cough) and measles, can—and do occur that not only impact health, but also the ability of children to attend school and adults to go to work—return; and

WHEREAS, every year, between 50,000 and 90,000 adults in the United States die from vaccine-preventable diseases; and

WHEREAS, diseases are never truly gone, and communities must remain over 90 percent immune to continue being protected; and

WHEREAS, by maintaining high vaccination rates we not only protect ourselves, but we also protect vulnerable infants who are not fully vaccinated yet and people of all ages with weakened or failing immune systems; and

WHEREAS, immunization rates in Thurston County are below the level needed for our community to be protected from diseases with only 57% of young children age 19-35 months old having received the recommended vaccinations; and

WHEREAS, Our County Government promotes immunization awareness, along with State and National organizations such as the World Health Organization, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and encourages people of all ages to discuss vaccination with a health care provider, and to get any needed immunizations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Thurston County Board of Health hereby proclaims August **Immunization Awareness Month**, and encourages all community members to recognize the importance of vaccinations for people of all ages in every community across the country, to reflect on the progress of science and medicine in the eradication of contagious disease, and for all residents to do their part to help maintain the health of our community by staying up to date on immunizations.

ADOPTED this thirteenth day of August, 2019

BOARD OF HEALTH



[Handwritten signatures of board members]

