

THURSTON COUNTY

Proclamation

National Public Health Week

WHEREAS, the week of April 1-7, 2019, is National Public Health Week, and the theme for 2019 is “Creating the Healthiest Nation: For science. For action. For health.”; and

WHEREAS, public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, withstand and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, including disease outbreaks such as measles and foodborne illness, climate change and natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, public health action, together with scientific and technologic advances, has played a major role in reducing the spread of infectious diseases, and in establishing today’s ability to monitor and prevent disease whether this be by working with local health care providers or drinking water systems; and

WHEREAS, U.S. life expectancy has decreased in recent years with a drop that represents the longest sustained decline in expected lifespan since the Great Recession; residents of Thurston County are experiencing differences in how long they live depending on their gender, race and ethnicity; and infant mortality is higher in Thurston County compared to Washington State; and

WHEREAS, 60 percent of people in the United States live with a chronic disease, such as cancer, heart disease or diabetes, which can be prevented in part by avoiding tobacco use, being physically active, eating well and avoiding excessive alcohol use; and

WHEREAS, there is a difference in the health and well-being of people living in rural places compared to people living in urban areas, in part because rural residents are more likely to experience transportation barriers, lack of access to services and lack of economic opportunity which negatively impacts health; and

WHEREAS, since 1995, the American Public Health Association, through its sponsorship of National Public Health Week, has educated the public, policymakers and public health professionals about issues important to improving the public’s health and the impact public health professionals make through both prevention and intervention activities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of County Commissioners hereby proclaims **April 1-7 as National Public Health Week 2019** in Thurston County, and urges all residents to observe this week by helping our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers and leaders better understand the value of public health and supporting opportunities to adopt preventive lifestyle habits in light of this year’s theme, **“Creating the Healthiest Nation: For science. For action. For health.”**

Adopted this second day of April, 2019

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

