

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Tuberculosis (TB) is the leading cause of death from a single infectious agent worldwide, responsible for 10 million deaths in 2018 alone. Tuberculosis is both preventable and treatable with antibiotics; and

WHEREAS: In 2018, 79 people in Arkansas had TB and an estimated 100,000 people had latent tuberculosis infections (LTBI), which are asymptomatic and not contagious but can progress to active TB. 10% of those with latent tuberculosis infections will develop tuberculosis in their lives. Latent tuberculosis infection can be treated more quickly and easily than active tuberculosis, with better outcomes; and

WHEREAS: The Arkansas Department of Health has identified several groups at high risk for LTBI and TB, including the Marshallese, those born outside the United States, those born before 1950, people with diabetes, cancer, HIV, AIDS, or who are immunocompromised. These groups should receive at least one tuberculosis test, available from the Arkansas Department of Health; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas has had a prominent role in the fight against tuberculosis in the United States. The Arkansas State Sanatorium in Booneville was the largest sanatorium in the United States and was internationally renowned. Arkansans have been at the forefront of the fight against tuberculosis; and

WHEREAS: Tuberculosis continues to have substantial public health, human, and financial costs both in Arkansas and abroad; and

WHEREAS: The Arkansas Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the World Health Organization have all committed to eliminating tuberculosis as a public health threat; and

WHEREAS: Increased public awareness and political commitment are key components of the Arkansas Tuberculosis Elimination Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim March 24th, 2020, as

WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY IN ARKANSAS

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 9th day of March, in the year of our Lord 2020.



Asa Hutchinson

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

John Thurston
John Thurston, Secretary Of State