

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) ranks vaccination among the most significant public health achievements of the 20th century; and

WHEREAS: According to the CDC, efforts to reduce transmission of COVID-19, such as stay-at-home orders, have led many to miss their doctor's visits where they would receive their scheduled immunizations; and

WHEREAS: A recent study found due to the pandemic, teens and adults may have missed more than 26 million doses of recommended vaccines in 2020; and

WHEREAS: A study in November 2020 by Blue Cross Blue Shield estimated 9 million childhood vaccination doses may have been missed by the end of 2020 due to the pandemic, raising the very real possibility of the development of a secondary outbreak of infectious disease; 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: Young children and older adults 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 will 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 Arkansas strives to protect all its residents, both young and old, from preventable diseases, therefore Arkansas encourages that all vaccines for children due or overdue should be administered according to the recommended CDC immunization schedules, and, that Arkansas will work to increase influenza and pneumonia vaccination rates to ease unnecessary burdens on healthcare systems and comorbidities during the upcoming fall and winter flu and pneumonia season, and that Arkansas continues its efforts to encourage residents to become fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus, and, that Arkansas supports a strong and vital immunization program that promotes a strong vaccinator neighborhood and includes pharmacists, nurses, and physicians;

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, August 2021, as

IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of August, in the year of our Lord 2021.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

John Thurston, Secretary Of State