

# STATE OF MICHIGAN



## CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION-

ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN,  
I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim

August 2020

as

**IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, vaccines have greatly reduced infectious diseases that once routinely killed or harmed many infants, children, and adults; and,

**WHEREAS**, vaccine-preventable diseases still circulate in Michigan, the United States, and around the world, and diseases that are rare in the U.S. can be brought into the country, putting unvaccinated adults and children, and those with health conditions at risk; and,

**WHEREAS**, while most parents in Michigan vaccinate their children, we have seen a 4 percent decrease in our vaccination rates for children aged 19-35 months, and, due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, only 50 percent of our 7 month old children have received all recommended vaccines; and,

**WHEREAS**, currently, the United States has the safest vaccine supply in its history, as any side effects are usually mild and go away in a few days; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is important to vaccinate on time, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended immunization schedule based on age and different risk factors, to provide the best protection throughout a lifetime; and,

**WHEREAS**, with the flu season approaching, Michiganders should visit their local health department, vaccination clinics, doctors' offices, retail pharmacies, and some schools and workplaces to get the flu vaccine to not only protect themselves and their families, but also to prevent overcrowding in hospitals and preserve our state's health care resources as we continue to fight the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

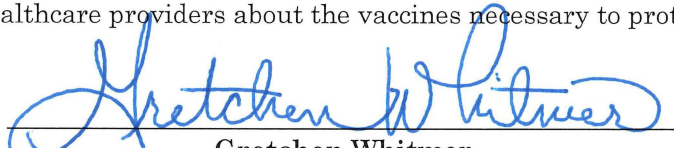
**WHEREAS**, the CDC estimates that from the 2010-2011 flu season through the 2015-2016 season, flu vaccines prevented as many as 6.7 million illnesses, 3.1 million outpatient medical visits, 87,000 hospitalizations, and 10,000 respiratory and circulatory deaths in the United States; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is launching a statewide media campaign, "Facing the Flu Together," encouraging Michiganders to get their flu vaccine this fall to help prevent an outbreak of the flu, while the state's I Vaccinate campaign is working to educate residents about the safety of vaccinating; and,

**WHEREAS**, during this month, we join with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and organizations across the nation to spread the message that vaccines are simple to get and one of the safest ways to protect health and lower risks for certain diseases and cancers;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, do hereby designate August 2020 as Immunization Awareness Month in Michigan and encourage people of all ages to get their flu shots and talk with their healthcare providers about the vaccines necessary to protect their health and the health of their families.



  
Gretchen Whitmer  
Governor

