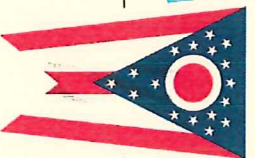


In the Name and by the Authority of  
**THE STATE OF**  
**OHIO**



*WHEREAS*, on March 9, 2020, the first COVID-19 cases were confirmed in Ohio in Cuyahoga County; and

*WHEREAS*, in response, a state of emergency was declared in Ohio and the state Emergency Operations Center was activated that same day; and

*WHEREAS*, even before the first cases, the state set up a call center, launched the coronavirus.ohio.gov website, and held press conferences to keep Ohioans informed about the virus; and

*WHEREAS*, at each step, Ohioans have responded, first to “flatten the curve” and give hospitals a chance to prepare, then by staying home, wearing masks, and social distancing; and

*WHEREAS*, as COVID-19 was disproportionately affecting Ohio’s minority communities, the Governor’s Office formed the Minority Health Strike Force to provide recommendations on pandemic-related concerns and long-standing health disparities; and

*WHEREAS*, on December 14, 2020, the first COVID-19 vaccines arrived in Ohio, and since then, more than 1.4 million Ohioans have received the vaccine; and

*WHEREAS*, to improve delivery of the COVID-19 vaccination to underserved populations, the state established Ohio’s Minority Health Vaccine Advisory Group; and

*WHEREAS*, true heroes have emerged during the pandemic, such as health care professionals, who showed great compassion in caring for COVID-19 patients, and other essential workers, who carried out important duties while facing extraordinary challenges; and

*WHEREAS*, countless lives have been saved, but sadly, more than 979,000 have tested positive with COVID-19 – some with lingering after effects – and more than 17,500 have died of COVID-19 in Ohio; and

*WHEREAS*, at this one-year mark, it is important to remember and mourn those we have lost to this deadly virus, those who have become sick, and all of their families.

*NOW, THEREFORE, We, Mike DeWine and Jon Husted, Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby recognize the*

**ANNIVERSARY OF COVID-19 IN OHIO**

on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2021.

Mike DeWine  
Governor



Jon Husted  
Lieutenant Governor