

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** vaccines are widely regarded as one of the greatest public health accomplishments in history; and
- Whereas,** currently, the United States has the safest, most effective, and most expansive vaccine supply in its history; and
- Whereas,** vaccine-preventable diseases still circulate in the United States and around the world, so continued vaccination is necessary to protect everyone from potential outbreaks. Even when diseases are rare in the U.S., they can be brought into the country, putting unvaccinated people at risk; and
- Whereas,** most parents vaccinate their children, resulting in high vaccine coverage rates in the U.S.; and
- Whereas,** when people are unvaccinated, outbreaks of diseases like pertussis (whooping cough) and measles can—and do—return; and
- Whereas,** it is important to vaccinate children on time, according to the childhood immunization schedule, to provide the best protection early in life, when babies are vulnerable and before they are likely to be exposed to diseases; and
- Whereas,** currently, vaccination coverage rates of infants and toddlers in West Virginia is the lowest since the national Vaccines for Children program was created in 1994; and
- Whereas,** National Immunization Awareness Month will be celebrated in the United States and territories to promote immunization, advance equity in the use of vaccines and universal access to vaccination services, and enable cooperation on intrastate and interstate immunization activities in August 2023; and
- Whereas,** the month of August 2023, has been declared National Immunization Awareness Month to help ensure that children should be protected against 14 vaccine-preventable diseases by the age of two.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *August 2023* as:

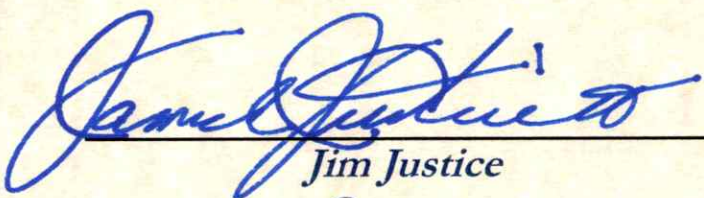
National Immunization Awareness Month

in the Mountain State and encourage West Virginians of all ages to make vaccination a priority and to talk to family and friends about protecting themselves and their families with vaccination. I also encourage businesses, government agencies, community-based organizations, and service groups to spread the immunization message throughout their communities.

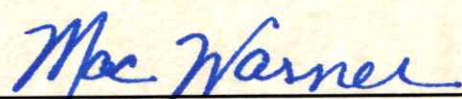
In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the first day of August, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three, and in the One Hundred Sixty-First year of the State.




Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:


Mac Warner
Secretary of State