

*State of Maine*



**WHEREAS**, disease, plagues, and epidemics have challenged humankind in all recorded history; and

**WHEREAS**, disease has impacted the history of the United States since it declared independence, from smallpox in 1776 through COVID-19 today; and

**WHEREAS**, the control and treatment of disease has been a goal of scientists in every generation; and

**WHEREAS**, the development of vaccines for smallpox, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, seasonal flu, and pneumonia save countless lives every year and reduce the burden of widespread disease, enabling individuals to live longer and lead healthier lives while reducing overall health care costs; and

**WHEREAS**, vaccinations are a critical part of well-care for both children and adults; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019, Maine's rate of vaccine-preventable whooping cough in children was the highest in the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Maine adults who do not receive regular vaccinations against flu, pneumococcal, Herpes Zoster (shingles), Hepatitis A and B, and meningococcal risk contracting vaccine-preventable illnesses and possibly death; and

**WHEREAS**, information about the safety, availability, and importance of regular immunizations is critical to increasing the number of children and adults who are adequately vaccinated;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the great State of Maine, do hereby proclaim August 2020 as

**Maine Immunization Awareness Month**

throughout the State of Maine and I encourage all Maine people to learn more about vaccine safety and efficacy and talk to their Primary Care Provider about their immunization status in order to be part of the effort to protect themselves, their families, their communities, and our state from vaccine preventable disease.



In testimony whereof, I have caused the  
Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed  
GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this  
twenty-eighth day of July Two Thousand Twenty

Janet T. Mills  
Governor

Matthew Dunlap  
Secretary of State