



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), efforts to reduce transmission of COVID-19, such as stay-at-home and shelter-in-place orders, have led many parents and caregivers to forgo taking their children to see their health care providers for critical well child visits where they would receive their scheduled immunizations; 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**, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a 43% reduction in immunizations administered to Tennessee children in April 2020 as compared to April 2019, leaving tens of thousands of the state's children vulnerable to preventable diseases; and

**WHEREAS**, young children 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**, Tennesseans are encouraged to get vaccines due or overdue administered according to CDC recommended immunization schedules;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim August 2020 as

*Immunization Awareness Month*

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this thirtieth day of July, 2020.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Lee Hargett*

Secretary of State