

# PROCLAMATION

## NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK April 7-13, 2025

**WHEREAS**, the week of April 7, 2025 is National Public Health Week, and the theme is “It Starts Here” highlighting the importance of making a difference in our home, community and state; and

**WHEREAS**, this year is the 30th anniversary of celebrating National Public Health Week, and in the past 30 years significant strides have been made in public health, including the following public health successes:

- (1) Deaths due to HIV/AIDS, which peaked in 1994 at 49,095 AIDS-related deaths that year in the U.S., have dropped significantly with Antiretroviral therapy ensuring most people with HIV can live normal lifespans and prevention tools like PrEP significantly reduce transmission;
- (2) Smoking rates, which were as high as 25.5% among U.S. adults in 1994, have now fallen to 11.4 % due to comprehensive smoke-free policies, public awareness campaigns, and taxation of tobacco products;
- (3) Childhood mortality, which was at a rate of 13.8 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1994, has now fallen to 5.4 deaths per 1,000 live births due to vaccines, better healthcare access and nutrition;
- (4) Mental health awareness and treatment, with 40% of people with mental health conditions being untreated in 1994, has progressed with increased awareness, parity laws and integration into primary care, which have expanded access to mental health services and reduced treatment gaps;
- (5) Lead poisoning, with 4.4% of U.S. children having elevated blood lead levels in 1994, has now fallen to less than 0.5% due to policies banning leaded gasoline and reducing lead in paint, pipes, and water systems;
- (6) Health impacts of climate change such as rising heat-related deaths were under-recognized in 1994, but are now being mitigated by actions such as public health campaigns, local adaptation plans including cooling centers and other preparedness plans to protect the public from extreme weather, wildfires and other regional threats and global frameworks like the Paris Agreement;
- (7) Pandemic preparedness, which was in its infancy in 1994, has now grown, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, spurring significant advancements in mRNA technology, global vaccine deployment, and increased investments in infrastructure, stockpiles and global surveillance — all of which must be sustained.

**WHEREAS**, racial and ethnic minority populations in the United States continue to experience disparities in the burden of illness and death, as compared with the entire population of the United States;

**WHEREAS**, a person’s health status can differ drastically by ZIP code due to differences in the built environment, environmental quality, community context, access to healthy food, access to education and access to health care;

**WHEREAS**, public health organizations use National Public Health Week to educate public policymakers, public health professionals and the public on issues that are important to improving the health of the people of the United States;

**WHEREAS**, public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, withstand and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, ranging from infectious disease outbreaks to natural disaster preparedness; and

**WHEREAS**, efforts to adequately support public health and the prevention of disease and injury can continue to transform a health system focused on treating illness into a health system focused on preventing disease and injury and promoting wellness.

**WHEREAS** the Village of Oak Park Public Health Department was established in 1905 and has been a state certified local health department for 75 years; and

**WHEREAS** the Village of Oak Park Public Health Department has continuously worked to achieve health equity by addressing social determinants of health and implementing targeted strategies for communities experiencing disparities; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and the Board of Trustees, do hereby recognize the Oak Park Public Health Department's efforts in disease prevention, health promotion and protection; support the goals of National Public Health Week to build awareness of public health's role; commit to continued investment in public health and proclaim the week of April 7–13, 2025 as **NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK** in the Village of Oak Park and encourage all citizens to become involved in community health improvement efforts to ensure Oak Park remains a healthy, vibrant community for all.

**DATED** this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025.

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Vicki Scaman

Village President

**ATTEST**

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Christina M. Waters

Village Clerk