

PROCLAMATION

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK April 6–12, 2026

WHEREAS, the week of April 6, 2026 is National Public Health Week, and the theme is “Ready. Set. Action!” highlighting that public health actions occurring through scientific discoveries, legislation and community initiatives have significantly improved the health of the population; and

WHEREAS, significant strides have been made in public health since the inception of National Public Health Week in 1994, including the following public health successes:

- (1) 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 health care access and nutrition;
- (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) 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;
- (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 underrecognized before the new millennium 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;
- (7) pandemic preparedness has improved rapidly, especially led by scientific advancement including mRNA technology and global vaccine deployment, and communities have 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 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 over 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.

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 6–12, 2026 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 24th day of March, 2026.

Vicki Scaman
Village President

ATTEST

Christina M. Waters
Village Clerk