



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, as New York is deeply invested in the safety and wellness of its residents, we take every opportunity to recognize current public health issues and rectify them for the sake of our collective future; and

Whereas, National Public Health Week was started in 1994 as an occasion to advocate for stronger public policy and education as well as scientific research and community activities that address major health concerns among people of all ages; since 1994, outstanding strides have been made throughout the United States to reduce the reach and severity of several such concerns; and

Whereas, childhood mortality, which was at a rate of 13.8 deaths per 1,000 live births, has fallen to a rate of 5.4 deaths per 1,000 live births due to better health care access, improved nutrition, and more vaccinations; lead poisoning in children, evidenced by elevated blood levels, decreased from 4.4 percent to less than 0.5 percent, which has been attributed to the banning of leaded gasoline and reduction of lead in paint, pipes, and water systems; and

Whereas, HIV/AIDS-related deaths have dropped significantly with antiretroviral therapy as well as transmission prevention tools such as PrEP, enabling people living with HIV to live longer; comprehensive smoke-free legislation and taxation of tobacco products has reduced smoking in adults, and mental health treatments have become integrated into primary health care measures, thereby expanding services and reducing treatment gaps; and

Whereas, pandemic preparedness measures have improved rapidly, especially led by advancements in global vaccine deployment and mRNA technology, and communities of all sizes have increased investments in vital infrastructure, supplies stockpiles, and global surveillance; and

Whereas, the impacts of planetary climate change, which were under-recognized before the new millennium, are now being mitigated by awareness campaigns and local adaptation plans, including cooling centers and environmental precautions against extreme weather, wildfires, and natural disasters; and

Whereas, racial and ethnic minorities in New York State often experience disproportionate burdens of illness and mortality, and quality of life is often shaped by geographic disparities in environmental conditions, education, and access to healthcare; and it is therefore essential to equip health care professionals to prepare for, respond to, and support recovery from public health threats; while initiatives such as the New York State Prevention Agenda will serve as a continued system that promotes wellness and commits to improving health outcomes for all residents across New York State;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 6 - 12, 2026 as

PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

in the Empire State.

G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this first day
of April in the year two thousand twenty-six.



Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh

Governor