



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Giving babies all recommended immunizations by age two is the best way to protect them from 14 serious childhood diseases; and
- WHEREAS: Currently, the United States has the safest, most effective vaccine supply in its history; and
- WHEREAS: Vaccine-preventable diseases still circulate in the United States and around the world so continued vaccination is necessary to protect everyone from potential outbreaks, even for diseases considered rare in the U.S., because they can be brought into the country, putting unvaccinated children at risk; and
- WHEREAS: When individuals are unvaccinated, outbreaks of diseases like pertussis (whooping cough) and measles can and do return; in 2016, 1,247 confirmed, probable, and suspect cases of pertussis were reported in Minnesota; and
- WHEREAS: It is important to vaccinate children on time, according to the childhood immunization schedule, to provide the best protection early in life when babies are vulnerable and before they are likely to be exposed to disease; and
- WHEREAS: Most children receive their recommended vaccinations, resulting in high vaccine coverage rates across the county; and
- WHEREAS: Since 1994, National Infant Immunization Week has encouraged parents, caregivers and health care professionals to participate in educational, recognition, and media events to increase awareness of the importance of immunizing children before their second birthday, protecting them against 14 vaccine-preventable diseases; and
- WHEREAS: This year, National Infant Immunization Week will be celebrated as part of World Immunization Week, an initiative of the World Health Organization (WHO), where all six WHO regions will simultaneously promote immunization, advance equity in the use of vaccines and universal access to vaccination service, and enable cooperation on cross-border immunization activities in April.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the week of April 22-29, 2017 as:

## INFANT IMMUNIZATION WEEK

in the State of Minnesota.



*Steve Simon*

SECRETARY OF STATE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April.

*Mark Dayton*  
GOVERNOR