

**State of Vermont**  
**Executive Department**  
**A Proclamation**

- 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,** in a recent letter to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, the American Academy of Pediatrics stated its concern over reports that immunization rates among children had dropped 60 – 80% during the pandemic raising the very real possibility of the development of a secondary outbreak of infectious disease; and
- WHEREAS,** young children are particularly vulnerable to vaccine-preventable diseases until they can be fully immunized; 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,** Vermont strives to protect all its residents, both young and old, from preventable diseases; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont encourages that all childhood vaccines due or overdue should be administered according to the recommended CDC immunization schedules in collaboration with the patient’s medical home; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont encourages all adults to ensure that their vaccines are up to date as recommended by the CDC immunization schedules in collaboration with their medical home; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont will work to increase influenza vaccination rates in order to ease unnecessary burdens on healthcare systems and comorbidities during the upcoming fall and winter flu season; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont is preparing for the arrival of COVID-19 vaccine(s); and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont supports a strong and vital immunization program for adults that promotes a strong vaccinator neighborhood and includes pharmacists; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont evaluates its Immunization Information System (IIS), also known as an immunization registry, to determine if any necessary improvements are needed.

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim August 2020 as

**IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH**

in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 11th day of August, A.D. 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Philip B. Scott'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Philip B. Scott  
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Brittney L. Wilson'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Brittney L. Wilson  
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs