

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

**WHEREAS,** the week of April 5-11, 2021, is National Public Health Week, and the theme is “Building Bridges to Better Health”; and

**WHEREAS,** since 1995, the American Public Health Association, through its sponsorship of National Public Health Week and with the support of its state affiliates such as the Vermont Public Health Association, has educated the public, policymakers and public health professionals about issues important to improving the public’s health; and

**WHEREAS,** there is a significant difference in health status, such as obesity, poor mental health and drug use, among people living in rural areas as compared with people living in urban areas, and this variance increases because rural residents are often more likely to face social determinants that negatively impact health, such as poverty, transportation barriers and lack of economic opportunity; and

**WHEREAS,** public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, withstand, and recover from the impact of a full range of significant health threats, including infectious disease outbreaks such as COVID-19, natural disasters and disasters caused by human activity; and

**WHEREAS,** public health action, together with scientific and technological advances, has played a major role in reducing and, in some cases, eliminating the spread of infectious disease, and in establishing today’s disease surveillance and control systems; and

**WHEREAS,** Vermont’s public health professionals and their colleagues have mounted a powerful and effective response to the threat of COVID-19 in order to protect the health and safety of all Vermonters; and

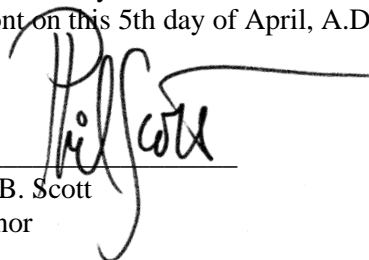
**WHEREAS,** the COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated and exacerbated racial inequities and a growing number of local, state governments and public health leaders have declared racism a public health crisis.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim April 5-11, 2021 as

**NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK**

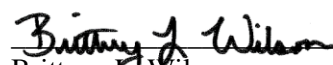
in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 5th day of April, A.D. 2021.



Philip B. Scott  
Governor



  
Brittney D. Wilson  
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs