

**State of Vermont  
Executive Department  
A Proclamation**

**WHEREAS,** the week of April 4-10, 2022, is National Public Health Week, and the theme is “Public Health is Where You Are”; 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,** United States life expectancy decreased from 2014 to 2017 in the longest sustained decline since the Great Recession and only in 2018 began to increase again; United States life expectancy then dropped again in 2020 by more than a year, which is the largest drop in life expectancy since 1943; 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 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,** a person’s health status can differ drastically by town and ruralness due to differences in the built environment, environmental quality, community context, access to healthy food, access to education and access to health care; and

**WHEREAS,** public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, withstand and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, including disease outbreaks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, measles, 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,** preventable risk factors such as physical inactivity, poor nutrition, tobacco use and excessive alcohol use are leading causes of chronic disease, and 6 in 10 United States adults have a chronic disease, and 4 in 10 have two or more, and chronic diseases are a leading cause of death and disability in the United States; and

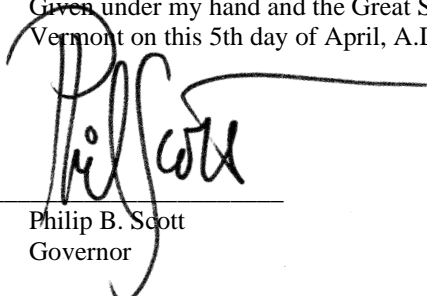
**WHEREAS,** the COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated and exacerbated racial inequities and a growing number of local, state governments and public health leaders have declared racism a public health crisis.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim April 4-10, 2022 as

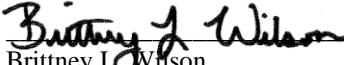
**PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK**

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 5th day of April, A.D. 2022.

  
Philip B. Scott  
Governor



  
Brittney L. Wilson  
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs