

National Public Health Week 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, has educated the public, policymakers and public health professionals about issues important to improving the public's health; and

Whereas, U.S. life expectancy dropped from 2014 to 2017 in the longest sustained decline since the Great Recession and only in 2018 began to increase again; U.S life expectancy then dropped again in 2020 by a full year, which is the largest drop in life expectancy since 1943.

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 zip code due to differences in the built environment, environmental quality, community context, access to healthy food, access to education and access to health care.

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 U.S adults have a chronic disease and 4 in 10 have two or more; and chronic diseases cause 7 of every 10 deaths annually in the United States.

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, WE, The Atchison County Board of Commissioners, by virtue of the authority vested in us, by the laws of Atchison County and the State of Kansas, do hereby proclaim the week of April 4-10, 2022, as

National Public Health Week 2022

in Atchison County, Kansas and call upon the people of Atchison County to observe this week by helping our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers and leaders to better understand the value of public health and supporting great opportunities to adopt preventive lifestyle habits in light of this year's theme, "Public Health is Where You Are."

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Board of Commissioners of Atchison County, Kansas, this the 5th day of April, 2022.

Eric Noll, Chairman

Jack Bower, Member

Casey Quinn, Member

Attest: _____
Michelle Phillips, County Clerk