

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** herpes zoster (shingles) is a disease caused by the same virus (zoster) that causes chickenpox; therefore, any individual who has contracted chickenpox is at risk for shingles (approximately 98% of U.S. adults); and
- WHEREAS,** nearly 1 in 3 people in the U.S. will contract shingles in their lifetime, corresponding to an estimated 1 million people annually; and
- WHEREAS,** risk of shingles increases with age, with nearly half of those affected are over 60 years and half of people living until 85 years of age will develop shingles; and
- WHEREAS,** shingles is a viral infection that causes a painful rash that can be severe along with other symptoms including long-term nerve pain, fever, headache, chills, upset stomach, muscle weakness, skin infection, scarring, decrease or loss of vision or hearing; and
- WHEREAS,** as much as 20% of adults who have contracted shingles will develop postherpetic neuralgia, a debilitating complication of shingles that causes severe pain, that may interfere with sleep and recreational activities, and be associated with clinical depression; and
- WHEREAS,** vaccines have reduced the burden of widespread and often fatal diseases, enabling individuals to lead longer and healthier lives while reducing health care costs; and
- WHEREAS,** although much attention has been paid to the importance of childhood vaccinations, there is a general lack of awareness of adult-recommended vaccines, and a misperception that immunizations are unnecessary for healthy adults; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommend that healthy adults 50 years and older be vaccinated against shingles to prevent shingles and shingles-related complications; and
- WHEREAS,** despite the recommendations of CDC officials and other experts that all healthy adults be vaccinated against shingles, as of 2015 only 30 percent of eligible adults had received the shingles vaccine; and
- WHEREAS,** the annual economic burden of shingles in American adults is estimated to be between \$782 million and \$5.0 billion; and
- WHEREAS,** the Institute of Medicine (IOM) has stated that one of the six causes of excess costs in the U.S. healthcare system is missed prevention opportunities; and
- WHEREAS,** millions of American adults go without routine and recommended vaccinations because our medical system is not set up to ensure that adults receive regular preventive healthcare; and
- WHEREAS,** as the month of August is observed as National Immunization Awareness Month, residents of Iowa should be encouraged to speak with their healthcare provider to ensure that they have been properly vaccinated against shingles according to current CDC and ACIP recommendations; now

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kim Reynolds, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby proclaim August as

SHINGLES AWARENESS AND IMPROVEMENT MONTH

in Iowa to increase public awareness of the importance of adults receiving vaccines against shingles, and to promote outreach and education efforts concerning adult vaccination.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS ____ DAY OF FEBRUARY IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND EIGHTEEN.

**KIM REYNOLDS
GOVERNOR OF IOWA**

ATTEST:

**PAUL PATE
SECRETARY OF STATE**