

## Attachment D: Sample Proclamation

# West Virginia Cervical Health Awareness Month Proclamation

In 2022, an estimated 14,100 people in the United States were diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer and approximately 4,280 people died from the disease. While the number of deaths from cervical cancer has significantly declined with the increased use of the Pap test and HPV vaccination, West Virginia continues to have one of the highest rates of cervical cancer diagnoses and deaths in the U.S.

Up to 93% of all cervical cancers can be prevented through screening and HPV vaccination. The Pap test saves lives by finding pre-cancers early that can be removed before they develop into cancer. All persons with a cervix should begin screening at age 21 and work with their provider to stay up to date on their screening.

The HPV vaccine helps prevent cervical cancer from ever developing. Currently, the HPV vaccination is recommended at age 11 or 12 years. Catch up vaccinations are recommended for persons through age 26 years who are not adequately vaccinated. Adults 27-45 years of age should speak with their provider to determine if HPV vaccination is right for them.

In recognition of the important lifesaving prevention and early detection practices available for cervical cancer, I \_\_\_\_\_ of, \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby proclaim January 2024 as Cervical Health Awareness Month in the Mountain State. I urge all \_\_\_\_\_ County citizens to work together to promote awareness and understanding of cervical health issues.

\* Data cited in this toolkit comes from the 2022 West Virginia Cancer Burden Report. WV Cancer Registry, WV Department of Health and Human Resources, Charleston, WV, November 2022.