

Proclamation for National Public Health Week

Whereas, the week of April 7, 2025, marks National Public Health Week, with the theme "It Starts Here," emphasizing the importance of making a positive impact on our homes, communities, and state; and

Whereas, the 30th anniversary of National Public Health Week celebrates significant achievements, including:

- A dramatic decline in HIV/AIDS-related deaths, with treatment advancements allowing many people with HIV to live full, healthy lives.
- A decrease in smoking rates from 25.5% in 1994 to 11.4% today through public awareness, smoking bans, and tobacco taxes.
- A reduction in childhood mortality, from 13.8 to 5.4 deaths per 1,000 live births, thanks to vaccines, improved healthcare, and better nutrition.
- Progress in mental health care, with more individuals receiving support thanks to expanded services and a growing understanding of mental health needs.
- A significant reduction in childhood lead exposure, from 4.4% to under 0.5%, due to important policy changes.
- Increased recognition of how environmental factors, like climate change, can affect health, with efforts like cooling centers and public health campaigns to address these concerns.
- Advancements in preparedness for health threats, including innovations like mRNA technology and global vaccine distribution; and

Whereas, it is recognized that certain communities continue to experience health challenges due to factors like access to resources, environmental conditions, and availability of healthcare services; and

Whereas, public health organizations use National Public Health Week to inform policymakers, professionals, and the public about ongoing efforts to improve health across the United States; and

Whereas, public health professionals play a vital role in supporting communities to prevent health issues, recover from emergencies, and promote long-term wellness; and

Whereas, ongoing support for public health efforts can help shift the focus from treating illness to preventing disease and encouraging healthy living;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Durham County that April 7-13, 2025, shall be designated as "Public Health Week" in Durham County, and call upon all residents to observe this week by recognizing the contributions of public health in improving the health of our county and promoting overall well-being for all. **"It Starts Here."**

Date:

Attest:

By:

Monica Wallace, Clerk to the Board

Nida Allam, Chairman