# SAMPLE PROCLAMATION

Whereas: Giving babies the recommended immunizations by age two is the best way to protect them from 14 serious childhood diseases.

Whereas: Currently, the United States has the safest vaccine supply in its history.

Whereas: Vaccine-preventable diseases still circulate in the United States and around the world, so continued vaccination is necessary to protect everyone from potential outbreaks. Even when diseases are rare in the U.S., they can be brought into the country, putting unvaccinated children at risk.

Whereas: Most parents vaccinate their children, resulting in high vaccine coverage rates in the U.S.

Whereas: When people are unvaccinated, outbreaks of diseases like pertussis (whooping cough) and measles can—and do—return.

Whereas: It is important to vaccinate children on time, according to the childhood immunization schedule, to provide the best protection early in life, when babies are vulnerable and before they are likely to be exposed to diseases.

Whereas: Since 1994, National Infant Immunization Week has encouraged parents, caregivers, and health care professionals to participate in educational, recognition, and media events to increase the awareness of the importance of immunizing children before their second birthday.

Whereas: This year, National Infant Immunization Week will be celebrated as part of World immunization Week, an initiative of the World Health Organization (WHO) where all six WHO regions, including more than 180 Member States, territories, and areas will simultaneously promote immunization, advance equity in the use of vaccines and universal access to vaccination services, and enable cooperation on cross-border immunization activities in April 2017.

Whereas: The week of April 22-29, 2017, has been declared National Infant Immunization Week to help ensure that children should be protected against 14 vaccine-preventable diseases by the age of two.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, (Governor/Mayor) of (state/city), do hereby proclaim the week of April 22-29, 2017 as INFANT IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS WEEK IN (state/city/county) and encourage parents to make vaccinating their children a priority and to talk to family and friends about protecting their children with vaccines. I also encourage businesses, government agencies, community-based organizations, and service groups to spread the immunization message throughout their communities.

DATED: Signed by (Governor/Mayor) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

This document can be found on the CDC website at: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/index.htm (NIIW events)](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/index.html)