

WHEREAS; public health workers have played a leading role in helping to reduce tobacco use, prevent heart disease, promote treatments and early detection of cancer, raise awareness about prevention tools and treatments for HIV/AIDS, promote early childhood health and nutrition, and establish the benefits of drinking water fluoridation leading to improvements in oral health; and

WHEREAS; among their innumerable contributions to society over the past century and beyond, public health workers have also played a critical role in increasing average life expectancy from 50 years in 1900 to 80 years in 2010, an increase of 60 percent; and

WHEREAS; public health workers are dedicated to reducing infant mortality, ensuring that families are immunized against vaccine-preventable diseases, tracking infectious diseases, promoting mental health and injury prevention, helping communities prepare for natural disasters, advancing equity efforts to reduce health disparities, and so much more; and

WHEREAS; advancing public health takes all of us and no one can do it alone, and we recognize that public health workers are leaders in creating partnerships with the business community, local and state government, community organizations, and local schools to improve the conditions that lead to better health for all; and

WHEREAS; in addition to their extraordinary work under ordinary circumstances, our public health heroes have dedicated their time and energy to combat public health crises such as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, raising awareness this year about the importance of wearing a mask, socially distancing, washing our hands, and not gathering in groups outside our immediate households so we can stay safe and healthy; and

WHEREAS; as leaders in the fight against COVID-19, public health workers have collaborated with the Wisconsin National Guard and public and private laboratories to bring more testing sites to communities, provided increasing amounts of data, raised and continue to address concerns about the disproportionate impact of the disease in communities of color, and skillfully conducted countless disease investigations and contact tracing calls in our communities to prevent further spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin's public health workers have worked tirelessly to protect our healthcare and long term care systems, and have helped to secure additional support, resources, and guidance for those systems during these times of crisis; and

WHEREAS; as the Thanksgiving holiday approaches and we battle the most dangerous pandemic in a century, the state of Wisconsin joins all Wisconsinites in expressing our deepest gratitude to our public health heroes;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim November 23, 2020, as

PUBLIC HEALTH THANK YOU DAY

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 23rd day of November 2020.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State