

WHEREAS; Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is a virus that compromises the immune system and can potentially lead to Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in infected individuals; and

WHEREAS; HIV/AIDS can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender, race, or sexual orientation, and can lead to other serious complications, such as an increased risk of cardiovascular disease, bone loss, and certain cancers; and

WHEREAS; the Joint United Nations Program on HIV and AIDS estimated that, in 2019, there were 38 million people living with HIV around the world, approximately 7,900 of whom live and work in Wisconsin, including an estimated 1,100 who are unaware of their diagnosis; and

WHEREAS; stigma and fear surrounding HIV can negatively affect an individual's quality of life and self-image, causing them to not disclose risk behaviors or their HIV status and to avoid seeking care; and

WHEREAS; people who receive care and take HIV medications as directed can experience increased quality of life, lower HIV in their blood to undetectable levels, and significantly reduce their likelihood of transmitting the disease sexually; and

WHEREAS; since 1988, World AIDS Day has been recognized every year in communities around the world to unite individuals, organizations, and government entities in the fight against HIV/AIDS, to show support for those living with HIV, and to recognize those who have lost their lives to the disease; and

WHEREAS; on this occasion, we recognize the important work of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) HIV Program, which operates as our state's leading response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, working to reduce risk, educate the public about prevention, identification, and treatment, and provide assistance with accessing treatment and insurance; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins DHS in standing with those whose lives have been impacted by HIV/AIDS, and in reaffirming our commitment to improving the accessibility of HIV prevention, education, and treatment resources for all people;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim December 1, 2020, as

WORLD AIDS 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 19th day of November 2020.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State