

STATE OF ILLINOIS



Proclamation

WHEREAS, protecting the health and safety of Illinoisans is among the most important functions of State government and our public health workforce; and,

WHEREAS, since early January 2020, Illinois has faced a pandemic caused by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) that has led to extraordinary sickness and loss of life, infecting over 4,200,000 people, and taking the lives of more than 36,500 Illinois residents; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois continues to respond to the public health disaster caused by COVID-19, a novel severe acute respiratory illness that spreads rapidly through respiratory transmissions -- the burden on residents, healthcare providers, first responders, and governments throughout the State has been unprecedented; and,

WHEREAS, our public health and healthcare heroes of the state have devoted themselves unceasingly to protecting the lives and well-being of the residents of 102 counties in Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, in February 2020, the State of Illinois became the first state in the country to be able to conduct its own tests for COVID-19 thanks to the efforts of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and our medical experts; and,

WHEREAS, our healthcare heroes risked their own lives during the darkest days of the pandemic to care for hundreds of thousands of Illinoisans in hospitals across the state in which intensive care units were overwhelmed; and,

WHEREAS, thousands of IDPH, local health departments, and healthcare workers across the state mobilized to curtail the spread of COVID-19 in the face of several obstacles; and,

WHEREAS, our public health heroes continue to provide vaccines, testing, therapeutics access, and public health prevention efforts to communities, and healthcare heroes continue to provide care to many thousands of Illinoisans each week; and,

WHEREAS, state and federal governments have declared that the public health emergencies declared for COVID-19 are to expire on May 11, 2023;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do proclaim May 11, 2023, as **Illinois Public Health & Health Care Hero Day** in Illinois and urge residents to never forget the dedication of our public health and healthcare heroes and to thank them again for all they have sacrificed to protect the lives and well-being of the people of Illinois.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this TWENTY-FIRST *day of* APRIL, *in*
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-THREE, *and of the State of Illinois,*
two hundred and FIFTH.



Alexi Giannouh
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR