

National Public Health Week Proclamation

Whereas the week of April 5-11, 2021, is National Public Health Week, and the theme is “Building Bridges to Better Health”; and

Whereas since 1995, the American Public Health Association, through its sponsorship of National Public Health Week, has educated the public, policymakers and public health professionals about issues important to improving the public’s health; and

Whereas U.S. life expectancy dropped from 2014 to 2017 in the longest sustained decline since the Great Recession and only in 2018 began to increase again; further, studies consistently show the United States has a lower life expectancy than comparable countries; and

Whereas there is a significant difference in health status, such as obesity, poor mental health and drug use, among people living in rural areas compared with people living in urban areas, and this variance increases because rural residents are often more likely to face social determinants that negatively impact health, such as poverty, transportation barriers and lack of economic opportunity; and

Whereas public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, withstand and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, including disease outbreaks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, measles, natural disasters and disasters caused by human activity; and

Whereas public health action, together with scientific and technological advances, has played a major role in reducing and, in some cases, eliminating the spread of infectious disease, and in establishing today’s disease surveillance and control systems; and

Whereas six in 10 U.S adults have a chronic disease and four in 10 have two or more; and health risks such as alcoholism, obesity and tobacco use are the primary reason for 7 of every 10 deaths annually in the United States.

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated and exacerbated racial inequities and a growing number of local, state governments and public health leaders have declared racism a public health crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jerry Holmes, Cleburne County Judge, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of Cleburne County, do hereby proclaim the week of April 5-11, 2021, as **National Public Health Week 2021** in Cleburne County and call upon the people of Cleburne County to observe this week by helping our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers and leaders to better understand the value of public health and supporting great opportunities to adopt preventive lifestyle habits in light of this year’s theme, **“Building Bridges to Better Health.”**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this **[5th]** day of April, two thousand twenty one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty sixth.



Signature

Jerry Holmes, Cleburne County Judge