



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### ADULT IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS: Vaccines have aided in reducing the burden of widespread and often fatal diseases, enabling individuals to lead longer and healthier lives while reducing health care costs; and
- WHEREAS: Much attention has been paid to the importance of childhood vaccinations, helping Georgia to achieve 75 percent compliance in the 2012 National Immunization Survey of Children aged 19 to 35 months. Despite the State's success with childhood immunization, Georgia ranks among the bottom 25 percent of states for influenza and pneumococcal immunization for adults over the age of 65; and
- WHEREAS: There is a general lack of awareness of recommended vaccines among adults and a misperception that adult immunizations are only for the elderly and ill; and
- WHEREAS: Adult Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPDs) are a critical public health issue in the United States. For influenza alone, an average of 226,000 Americans are hospitalized, and between 3,000 and 49,000 Americans die annually. Over 90 percent of pneumococcal disease cases in the United States occur in adults; and
- WHEREAS: Together, all-cause pneumonia and influenza represented a cost to the US economy of \$40.2 billion in direct and indirect costs in 2005; and
- WHEREAS: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has consistently seen adult vaccination compliance fall below targets, and aims to achieve 90 percent compliance for influenza and pneumococcal pneumonia vaccination in adults 65 and older as a part of its Healthy People 2020 goals; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim August 2014 as ADULT IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia in an effort to reinforce the importance of immunizations in adults and the seriousness of the diseases they help to prevent.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand fourteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

CHIEF OF STAFF