

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, influenza and pneumococcal pneumonia are responsible for thousands of deaths among Americans every year, with people aged 65 and older accounting for as many as 90 percent of these deaths; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, there were 48,031 deaths in the United States in adults age 65 and older caused by influenza and pneumonia and, despite the availability of Medicaid and Medicare Part B-covered Vaccines, flu and pneumonia remain the 7th leading cause of death for people aged 65 and older; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina immunization rates for influenza and pneumococcal pneumonia fall short of the Healthy People 2020 goal of 70 percent and 90 percent respectively, and 15 counties in our state have low rates between 21 and 40 percent for flu immunizations; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Immunization Coalition, founded by The Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence under the Atlantic Quality Innovation Network, in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and supported by key stakeholders and advocates, works to increase adult immunization rates in the Palmetto State through education, motivation, and increased access and thereby reduce the risk of death associated with influenza-related illnesses.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 1, 2015 - May 31, 2016, as

SENIOR VACCINATION SEASON

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to spread the senior immunization message throughout their communities and to protect themselves from flu and pneumonia by getting immunized.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nikki R. Haley".

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA