



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, tooth decay remains the most common chronic disease in children, even though it is largely preventable; and

WHEREAS, oral health problems can negatively affect a child's speech, self-esteem, academic success, nutrition, can cause pain and compromise a child's permanent teeth; and

WHEREAS, healthy habits, learned early and reinforced throughout life, lead to better health outcomes and longer, healthier lives; and

WHEREAS, healthy oral health habits include: brushing twice per day and flossing daily, limiting sugar and simple carbohydrates, avoiding sugary beverages, drinking plenty of water, and visiting your regular, preventive dental professional every six months, or at their recommendation; and

WHEREAS, we all have the responsibility to model healthy habits and instill these positive habits in the children around us whose lives may be impacted; and

WHEREAS, oral health is a crucial part of overall health and the same good habits that help keep our mouths healthy also help prevent many other chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a beautiful mix of rich cultures and a diverse population, many of whom are disproportionately affected by chronic diseases that include tooth decay; and

WHEREAS, the rural nature of New Mexico makes access to dental care more challenging, thus creating a greater need for oral health literacy and proper oral health habits; and

WHEREAS, just as adverse social determinants can increase the risk of developing chronic conditions, communities that support healthy lifestyles can provide protection and resilience and help to lower this risk; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Oral Health within The New Mexico Department of Health and its many invaluable partners throughout New Mexico work together to provide oral health preventive and treatment services, education, and risk reduction strategies.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim February 2022 to be

"Children's Dental Health Month"

throughout the state of New Mexico.

Attest:

Maggie Toulouse Oliver
Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this
3rd day of January 2022.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal
of the State of New Mexico.

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

