



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, oral health encompasses more than just our teeth. It includes the health of our gums, insides of our cheeks, floor and roof of the mouth, the upper portion of the throat, and the bone that supports our teeth; and

WHEREAS, oral health is defined as a state of being free from mouth and facial pain, oral and throat cancer, oral infection and sores, periodontal (gum) disease, tooth decay, tooth loss, and other diseases and disorders that limit an individual's capacity in biting, chewing, smiling, speaking, and psychosocial wellbeing; and

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

WHEREAS, the simple habit of brushing every morning and every night can prevent most children's oral health problems and lead to the prevention of future chronic health issues; and

WHEREAS, other good oral health habits that include limiting sugar, drinking plenty of water, and having regular, preventive dental visits greatly reduce the likelihood of serious oral health problems; and

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

WHEREAS, we all have the responsibility to model healthy habits and instill these in the children around us whose lives will be impacted by our choices and habits; 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 oral health care more challenging, thus creating a greater need for oral health literacy and good oral health habits; and

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

WHEREAS, The Office of Oral Health within the New Mexico Department of Health and its many invaluable partners throughout the state 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 2023 as:

"Children's Oral Health Month"

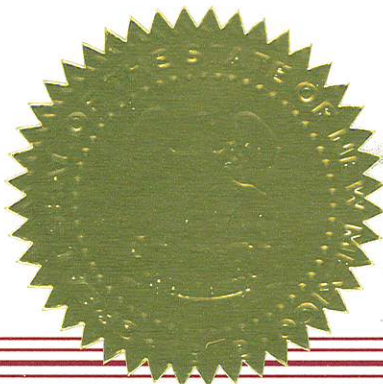
throughout the state of New Mexico.

Attest:


Maggie Toulouse Oliver
Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this
20th day of January 2023.

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




Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor