

STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, oral health is integral to overall well-being, encompassing not only the teeth but also the health of the gums, the inner surfaces of the cheeks, the floor and roof of the mouth, the upper portion of the throat, and the bone structure supporting our teeth; and

WHEREAS, oral health is defined as the state of being free from mouth and facial pain, oral and throat cancers, oral infections, gum disease, tooth decay, tooth loss, and other diseases and disorders that impair an individual's ability to bite, chew, smile, and speak confidently, as well as negatively impact psychological well-being and overall quality of life; and

WHEREAS, tooth decay remains the most common chronic disease in children, despite being largely preventable; and

WHEREAS, the simple habit of brushing every morning and brushing and flossing every night can prevent the majority of children's oral health problems, promote healthier teeth and gums, and significantly reduce the likelihood of future chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, adopting good oral health habits, including limiting sugar consumption, drinking plenty of water, and scheduling regular preventive dental visits, greatly reduces the risk of serious oral health problems and supports the development of strong teeth and gums; and

WHEREAS, oral health problems can negatively impact a child's speech development, self-esteem, academic performance, and nutrition while causing pain, compromising the health of their permanent teeth, and adversely affecting their overall physical and emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS, we all share the responsibility to model healthy habits and instill them in the children around us, recognizing that our choices and behaviors shape their lifelong attitudes, practices, and overall health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is home to a vibrant blend of rich cultures and a diverse population, many of whom are disproportionately affected by chronic diseases, including tooth decay, highlighting the need for equitable access to oral health education, preventive care, and resources to address these disparities; and

WHEREAS, the rural nature of New Mexico poses significant challenges to accessing oral health care, emphasizing the critical need to promote oral health literacy, encourage good oral hygiene habits, and develop innovative solutions to bridge gaps in care for underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, adverse social determinants of health can increase the risk of developing chronic conditions, while communities that actively support healthy lifestyles foster protection, resilience, and empowerment, significantly reducing this risk and promoting overall wellness; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Oral Health within the New Mexico Health, in collaboration with its invaluable partners across the state, works tirelessly to deliver essential preventive and restorative oral health services, provide education and health promotion, and implement risk reduction strategies to improve the oral health and overall well-being of all New Mexicans.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim February 2025, as:

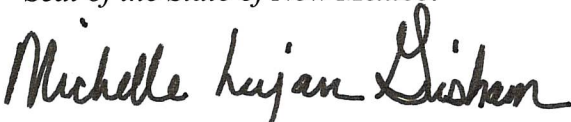
“Children’s Dental Health Month”

Attest:


Maggie Toulouse Oliver
Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this
6th day of January 2025.

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


Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

