

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Proclamation

PROCLAIMING APRIL 7-13, 2025, AS NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK
IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

WHEREAS, the week of April 7-13, 2025, is National Public Health Week, and the theme is "It Starts Here" highlighting the importance of making a difference in our home, community and state; and

WHEREAS, this year is the 30th anniversary of celebrating National Public Health Week, and in the past 30 years major strides have been made in public health, including the following public health successes; and

WHEREAS, Pandemic preparedness has greatly advanced since 1994, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, with Santa Cruz efforts improved in surveillance, monitoring, transparent data dashboards, emergency preparedness planning and activations; and

WHEREAS, Santa Cruz County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responded to 26,448 events in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024, facilitating 15,678 transports, and held eight Emergency Preparedness exercises to support a stable health care delivery system; and

WHEREAS, Children and Family Health Branch provided essential services to approximately 1,890 families across five programs in the last fiscal year, such as nurse home visits, occupational and physical therapy to disabled children, health care for foster youth and childhood lead prevention; and

WHEREAS, Population Health Branch's DataShareSCC.org saw over 15,000 active users access community-level data and indicators; and Vital Records issued approximately 14,000 documents, including birth and death certificates, and disposition permits; and

WHEREAS, Healthy Communities Branch served 7,624 individuals across eight programs; an additional 20,386 individuals were reached through the Oral Health program, through various outreach efforts, including 12,086 children supported through School-Based Dental Programs; and

WHEREAS, Infectious Disease Branch managed 1,303 significant cases and suspected cases of Tuberculosis, Syphilis, GC, Salmonella, Shigella, STEC, and MPOX, and supported 100 Hepatitis C clients; and

WHEREAS, public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, educate about, withstand and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, ranging from infectious disease outbreaks to natural disaster preparedness; and

WHEREAS, efforts to adequately support public health and the prevention of disease and injury can continue to transform a health system focused on treating illness into a health system focused on designing policies and systems to prevent disease and injury and promote wellness.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Felipe Hernandez, Chair of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, do hereby proclaim the week of April 7-13, 2025, as National Public Health Week and call upon the people of Santa Cruz to observe by helping our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers and leaders to recognize the contribution of public health professionals and those that promote public health every day in improving the health of the people of our county and achieving health equity, as the theme states, "It Starts Here."




Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

March 27, 2025

Date