RESOLUTION 200(20)

July 8, 2020

WHEREAS, the annual observance of National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) is an annual observance held in August to highlight the importance of vaccination for people of all ages; and

WHEREAS, vaccines are responsible for the control of many infectious diseases that were once common in this country. Vaccines have reduced and, in some cases, eliminated many diseases that once routinely killed or harmed tens of thousands of infants, children and adults; and

WHEREAS, the viruses and bacteria that cause vaccine-preventable diseases and death still exist and can infect people who are not protected by vaccines. Vaccine-preventable diseases have a costly impact, resulting in doctor’s visits, hospitalizations and premature deaths; and

WHEREAS, when people are unvaccinated, outbreaks of diseases such as pertussis (whooping cough) and measles can, and do, return, as evidenced in the past few years; and

WHEREAS, many adults remain unvaccinated because they are unaware or misinformed about the safety of and need for vaccines beyond childhood; and

WHEREAS, safe and effective vaccines are readily available to protect against disease, disability, and death from communicable diseases, including diphtheria, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, human papillomavirus, influenza, measles, meningitis, mumps, pertussis, pneumococcal disease, polio, rubella, shingles, tetanus and varicella; and

WHEREAS, the Ocean County Health Department continues to promote vaccinations through its Tdap and Shingles Clinics and through its Community Health Improvement Plan by addressing immunization compliance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ocean County Board of Health hereby proclaims August 2020 as National Immunization Awareness Month by promoting and educating residents of Ocean County about the importance of vaccinations and urging parents and adults to make sure that they and their loved ones are up-to-date on their immunizations. Being vaccinated on time protects them, their families and our community from preventable diseases.