

Office of the
**Kanabec County Board of
Commissioners**

District #1, Dennis McNally
District #2, Vacant
District #3, Les Nielsen
District #4, Rick Mattson
District #5, Craig Smith

18 North Vine Street, Suite 181, Mora, MN 55051-1351



National Public Health Week Proclamation

Whereas the week of April 4-10, 2022, is National Public Health Week, and the theme is “Public Health is Where You Are”; and

Whereas since 1995, the American Public Health Association, through its sponsorship of National Public Health Week, has educated the public, policymakers and public health professionals about issues important to improving the public’s health; and

Whereas U.S. life expectancy dropped from 2014 to 2017 in the longest sustained decline since the Great Recession and only in 2018 began to increase again; U.S life expectancy then dropped again in 2020 by a full year, which is the largest drop in life expectancy since 1943.

Whereas there is a significant difference in health status, such as obesity, poor mental health and drug use, among people living in rural areas compared with people living in urban areas, and this variance increases because rural residents are often more likely to face social determinants that negatively impact health, such as poverty, transportation barriers and lack of economic opportunity; and

Whereas a person’s health status can differ drastically by zip code due to differences in the built environment, environmental quality, community context, access to healthy food, access to education and access to health care.

Whereas public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, withstand and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, including disease outbreaks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, measles, natural disasters and disasters caused by human activity; and

Whereas public health action, together with scientific and technological advances, has played a major role in reducing and, in some cases, eliminating the spread of infectious disease, and in establishing today’s disease surveillance and control systems; and

Whereas preventable risk factors such as physical inactivity, poor nutrition, tobacco use and excessive alcohol use are leading causes of chronic disease; and 6 in 10 U.S adults have a chronic disease and 4 in 10 have two or more; and chronic diseases cause 7 of every 10 deaths annually in the United States.

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Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated and exacerbated racial inequities and a growing number of local, state governments and public health leaders have declared racism a public health crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Les Nielsen, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of **Minnesota**, do hereby proclaim the week of April 4-10, 2022, as **National Public Health Week 2022 in Kanabec County, Minnesota** and call upon the people of **Kanabec County** to observe this week by helping our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers and leaders to better understand the value of public health and supporting great opportunities to adopt preventive lifestyle habits in light of this year's theme, "**Public Health is Where You Are.**"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this **[5th]** day of April, two thousand twenty two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty sixth.

Kanabec County Community Health Board, Chairperson