



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, HIV is a worldwide public health concern and is treatable with early intervention; HIV testing, linkage to care, PrEP and nPEP are vital to the success of HIV prevention; and

WHEREAS, we have made great strides in reducing the number of new HIV cases and developing drug therapies for both treating and preventing new HIV infections; and

WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health state that an overwhelming body of clinical evidence has firmly established the HIV Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U) concept as scientifically sound; and

WHEREAS, U=U means that people living with HIV who achieve and maintain an undetectable viral load—the amount of HIV in the blood—by taking and adhering to antiretroviral therapy (ART) as prescribed cannot sexually transmit the virus to others; and

WHEREAS, U=U can help control the HIV pandemic by preventing HIV transmission, and it can reduce the stigma that many people with HIV face; and

WHEREAS, in New Jersey, while HIV/AIDS diagnoses declined by 13.9% from 1,235 in 2013 to 1,063 in 2018, there were 38,069 people reported living with HIV or AIDS in New Jersey as of December 2019 and one in ten do not know they are living with HIV; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has designated December first as World AIDS Day to support individuals living with HIV to remember those who have died and to encourage everyone to seek HIV testing to determine if they need treatment; and

WHEREAS, the theme of this year's World AIDS Day observance is "Ending the HIV Epidemic: Resilience and Impact," and New Jersey community-based organizations, hospitals, clinics, health care professionals, advocates and community members will commemorate World AIDS Day with activities around the State; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the efforts of these organizations which provide HIV testing, education, medical treatment and social support programs, protect the rights and dignity of people with HIV and those close to them, and remember the tens of thousands who have lost the battle with HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey has pledged to end its statewide HIV epidemic by 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

DECEMBER 1, 2020
AS
WORLD AIDS DAY

in New Jersey and acknowledge the efforts of thousands of silent heroes fighting HIV and those in the spotlight who bravely speak up and create life-saving awareness.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this thirtieth day of November in the year two thousand twenty, the two hundred forty-fifth year of the Independence of the United States.


Lt. GOVERNOR


GOVERNOR