

Alaska Public Health Association (ALPHA) Policy Resolution

Recognizing National Public Health Week and Designating Alaska Public Health Week, 2026

WHEREAS, public health is foundational to protecting and improving the health, safety, and well-being of all Alaskans through disease prevention, health promotion, and the creation of conditions in which all people can thrive; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's distinctive geography, rural and remote communities, and cultural diversity present both challenges and opportunities for delivering equitable, community-driven public health services across the state; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's public health workforce, including the Alaska Department of Health, tribal health organizations, local and regional health authorities, academic institutions, and community-based partners, plays a critical role in preventing disease, responding to emergencies, supporting mental and behavioral health, and promoting wellness across generations; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic, along with ongoing public health challenges such as climate-related health impacts, chronic disease, substance use, and mental health needs, has underscored the importance of a strong, coordinated, and well-resourced public health infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Alaska continues to face significant health disparities affecting Alaska Native peoples, rural residents, and other underserved populations, highlighting the need for sustained investment in health equity, workforce development, and the social determinants of health; and

WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association annually convenes National Public Health Week, held this year from April 6–12, 2026, to celebrate the contributions of public health professionals and mobilize collective action toward healthier communities; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 National Public Health Week theme, "*Building Healthier Communities Together*," reflects Alaska's shared responsibility to advance health equity and resilience through collaboration, innovation, and respect for Indigenous and local knowledge systems; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's largest municipality, Anchorage, plays a vital role in advancing statewide public health through leadership, innovation, and partnership, and can amplify

the impact of this observance by formally recognizing Alaska Public Health Week at the local level;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Public Health Association (ALPHA) proudly recognizes April 6–12, 2026, as National Public Health Week and formally designates this same period as Alaska Public Health Week; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ALPHA encourages all Alaskans, including individuals, communities, health professionals, organizations, and policymakers, to participate in events and initiatives that highlight Alaska’s public health achievements, address ongoing challenges, and strengthen our collective capacity for health equity and community well-being; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ALPHA encourages the Municipality of Anchorage to formally adopt Alaska Public Health Week through a municipal proclamation or resolution, and to support public education, community engagement, and collaborative public health initiatives during this week; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ALPHA also encourages other Alaska municipalities, boroughs, and tribal governments to consider similar proclamations or resolutions in recognition of Alaska Public Health Week, thereby reinforcing a shared statewide commitment to the health of all Alaskans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ALPHA will disseminate this resolution in partnership with the University of Alaska Anchorage, College of Health, Division of Population Health Sciences, to the the Municipality of Anchorage, State Department of Health, and other public health partners to support coordination, visibility, and celebration of Alaska Public Health Week.