

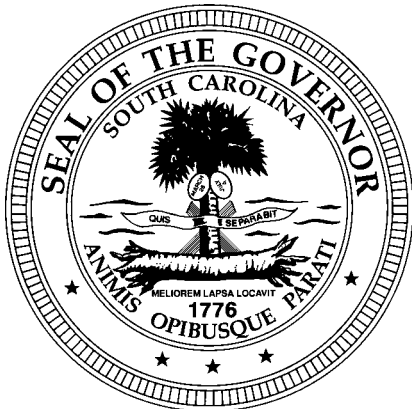
*State of South Carolina*  
*Proclamation*  
*by*  
*Governor Jim Hodges*

- WHEREAS,** complications from influenza-related illnesses are responsible for approximately 70,000 deaths annually in the United States, with people aged 65 and older accounting for as many as 80 to 90% of these deaths; and
- WHEREAS,** despite the effectiveness and availability of Medicare Part-B covered vaccines, influenza and pneumonia remain the 5<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death among the elderly; and
- WHEREAS,** the South Carolina Coalition for Older Adult Immunization is committed to increasing the number of Medicare beneficiaries immunized against influenza and pneumonia; and
- WHEREAS,** during "Senior Vaccination Season", the South Carolina Coalition for Older Adult Immunization will partner with health departments, federally qualified health centers, pharmacists, hospitals, and physicians to help increase adult immunization rates in the Palmetto State.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 1, 2002 – March 31, 2003, as

**SENIOR VACCINATION SEASON**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to raise awareness of the importance of immunizations to the health of our senior citizens, to obtain needed immunizations, and to maintain records of their personal immunization status.



*Jim Hodges*

**Jim Hodges**  
**Governor**  
**State of South Carolina**