

WHEREAS, every year, approximately 70,000 people in the United States die as a result of complications from influenza-related illnesses, with people age 65 and older accounting for an estimated 80-90% of these deaths; and

WHEREAS, despite the effectiveness and availability of Medicare Part-B covered vaccines, flu and pneumonia remain the fifth leading cause of death among the elderly and the seventh leading cause of death among all Americans; and

WHEREAS, immunization rates for influenza and pneumococcal disease show that these preventive measures are underutilized by Medicare beneficiaries in South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, during Senior Vaccination Season, statewide partnerships will be strengthened between health departments, federally qualified health centers, pharmacists, hospitals, home health agencies, nursing homes, and physicians to help increase adult immunization rates in the Palmetto State.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 1, 2009 - March 31, 2010, as

SENIOR VACCINATION SEASON

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to spread the senior immunization message throughout their communities.