

Asthma Awareness Month May 2012

WHEREAS, asthma is a long-term, inflammatory disease in which the airways of the lungs constrict, causing wheezing, breathlessness, chest tightness, and coughing;

WHEREAS, exposure to allergens and irritants such as dust mites, mold, cockroaches, pet dander, and secondhand smoke can bring on an asthma episode;

WHEREAS, asthma has reached epidemic proportions in the United States, affecting almost 25 million people; and

WHEREAS, each year nearly 2 million people are rushed to the emergency room from asthma;

WHEREAS, asthma is one of the leading causes of childhood hospitalizations, long-term illness, and school absenteeism, accounting for nearly 10.5 million missed school days each year;

WHEREAS, secondhand smoke worsens children's asthma in up to one million children;

WHEREAS, Alameda County has the second highest asthma rate in California with pediatric emergency department visits double that of the State; and

WHEREAS, the lifetime asthma prevalence rate in Alameda County is 16.6% or the third highest in California including hospitalizations and primarily impacts school aged-children (5-17 years old); and

WHEREAS, there are simple steps people can take to reduce their exposure to environmental asthma triggers;

WHEREAS, The Asthma Coalition of Alameda County and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are encouraging Americans to identify and reduce their exposures to environmental triggers in homes and schools, and incorporate environmental controls into their asthma management plans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, does hereby proclaims **May 2012 as Asthma Awareness Month** and recognizes the collaborative efforts and contributions of the Asthma Coalition of Alameda County to promote a community where all people with asthma have an optimal quality of life in a healthy environment.

NATE MILEY, President
Supervisor, Fourth District

May 1, 2012

KEITH CARSON, Vice-President
Supervisor, Fifth District

SCOTT HAGGERTY
Supervisor, First District

WILMA CHAN
Supervisor, Third District