



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, each year, thousands of New Yorkers develop the life-threatening medical condition known as *sepsis* – the human body's overwhelming response to infection, which can cause tissue damage, organ failure, and death in the absence of immediate diagnosis and medical treatment; and

Whereas, September is designated Sepsis Awareness Month, and New York State joins in support of this observance to raise awareness of the risks and dangers of sepsis, which affects 1.7 million Americans annually, claiming the lives of nearly 270,000 each year; and

Whereas, sepsis can impact individuals of all ages, with older populations of adults age 65 years and older being particularly susceptible to developing this often-fatal condition; also at high risk are people with chronic medical conditions or weakened immune systems, those who have been recently hospitalized, and children younger than one year of age; sepsis and infections are a leading cause of pregnancy-related deaths in the United States; and

Whereas, it is important that people recognize the signs and symptoms of sepsis, which can include fever or low body temperature, the presence of infection, mental decline or confusion, severe pain, discomfort, and shortness of breath; and

Whereas, infections that lead to sepsis can start anywhere in the body, and the best way to prevent sepsis is to avoid infections by attentively caring for chronic conditions, getting vaccinated, washing one's hands, and attending to cuts and wounds; and

Whereas, it is critical that people understand the seriousness of this illness and seek immediate medical treatment as necessary, with the most effective treatment for sepsis including medicine to fight the infection, increasing low blood pressure to get blood to vital organs, and making sure the body is getting enough oxygen; and

Whereas, while the majority of severe sepsis cases originate in a community setting outside of a hospital, sepsis is the leading cause of hospital deaths in the United States, accounting for one in three patient deaths; the economic impact of sepsis is immense, carrying an annual national cost of \$62 billion, and is a major reason for hospital readmissions each year; and

Whereas, since 2014, the New York State Sepsis Care Improvement Initiative has been a resource for quality improvement in treating sepsis by working with hospitals and partners across the state to improve early detection of severe sepsis and septic shock, initiate timely interventions and treatment, and reduce overall mortality, or death, from sepsis; and

Whereas, all New Yorkers are encouraged to take preventive action and watch for and treat potential signs of infection - including from small sources, like a cut or scrape - that could escalate to severe sepsis or septic shock; and by raising awareness, becoming well-informed about sepsis, and understanding the importance of rapid diagnosis and treatment we can enjoy healthier, longer lives;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim September 2023 as

SEPSIS AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this fourth day of September in the year two thousand twenty-three.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh