



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

PANDAS/PANS AWARENESS DAY

2020

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, PANDAS/PANS are serious, clinically diagnosed illnesses; and

WHEREAS, PANDAS (Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections) is the sudden onset of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), often displayed as severe anxiety and emotional disturbances, in addition to two or more of the following symptoms: tics or other abnormal movement, irritability, emotional lability, aggression, personality changes, ADHD, sensory sensitivities, deterioration in learning abilities and school performance, developmental and age regression, sleep and nighttime difficulties, and/or urinary frequency or daytime/nighttime secondary enuresis; and

WHEREAS, PANS (Pediatric Acute Onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome) is similar to PANDAS in terms of presentation, but has a broader list of possible triggers, including mycoplasma pneumonia, mono, Lyme, viruses, and other infections, as well as non-infectious environmental and metabolic triggers; the working criteria for PANS is abrupt, dramatic onset of OCD or severely restricted food intake with concurrent presence of additional neuropsychiatric symptoms; and

WHEREAS, children with PANDAS/PANS may have moderate to dramatic improvements with antibiotics within one week of treatment, or may require further interventions such as prolonged antibiotics (two months to several years) and/or intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) treatment or plasmapheresis; and

WHEREAS, PANDAS/PANS are frequently misdiagnosed, undiagnosed, and undertreated due to the lack of awareness of these disorders, both by the public and medical community; and

WHEREAS, researchers at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) are currently engaged in extensive research and testing on how to effectively treat these disorders; and

WHEREAS, while the true prevalence of PANDAS/PANS is unknown, it is estimated that 1 in 200 children in the United States are impacted by these disorders; PANDAS/PANS can seriously affect the healthy outcome of a child's life, yet funding and awareness is scarce; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as PANDAS Network and the PANS Research and Advocacy Initiative are dedicated to advocating on behalf of youth with PANDAS/PANS by providing emotional and social support to families, raising community awareness, and investing in data-driven research;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 9, 2020, as "PANDAS/PANS AWARENESS DAY" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this thirtieth day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.