



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**SEPSIS AWARENESS MONTH**

**2023**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

## **A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, sepsis results from an overwhelming immune response to infection, whereby immune chemicals released into the blood to combat infection trigger widespread inflammation; and

**WHEREAS**, sepsis happens when an infection you already have triggers a chain reaction throughout your body, with most cases starting before a patient goes to the hospital; and

**WHEREAS**, each year, at least 1.7 million adults in the United States develop sepsis, and at least 350,000 adults who develop sepsis die during their hospitalization, or are discharged to hospice; and

**WHEREAS**, in North Carolina, 1,669 people died from sepsis or septicemia in 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, young children and the elderly experience the greatest number of sepsis-related deaths; sepsis kills more Americans than prostate cancer, breast cancer, and opioid overdoses combined, and it is the most expensive cause of hospitalization in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, viral sepsis is the most common complication in severe COVID-19, emphasizing the importance of infection prevention and sepsis awareness to public health; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the severe danger and widespread occurrence of this illness, a survey conducted by Sepsis Alliance found that fewer than 12 percent of adults in the United States can identify the symptoms of sepsis; and

**WHEREAS**, sepsis can be treated with immediate diagnosis and care, but must be treated as a medical emergency, as it contributes to tissue damage and organ failure;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September, 2023, as **"SEPSIS AWARENESS MONTH"** in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
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**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 thirty-first day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-eighth.