



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, each year, thousands of New Yorkers develop the life-threatening medical condition known as *sepsis* – the 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 2022 is designated as Sepsis Awareness Month, and New York State joins in support of this observance to raise awareness of the risks and dangers of sepsis, which impacts more than 50,000 New Yorkers and claims the lives of 350,000 adults and 6,800 children in the United States annually; severe sepsis and septic shock impact approximately 65,000 adult patients in New York each year, and nearly 24% of these patients die from sepsis; and

**Whereas**, sepsis can affect individuals of all ages, with older populations being particularly susceptible, as adults age 65 years and older are 13 times more likely to be hospitalized with this often-fatal condition; also at high risk are children younger than one year of age, people with chronic medical conditions or weakened immune systems, and those who have been recently hospitalized; and

**Whereas**, sepsis and infections are a leading cause of pregnancy-related deaths in the United States; and black women are 3.3 times more likely to die during childbirth; and

**Whereas**, viral sepsis is the most common complication in severe cases of COVID-19, making infection prevention and sepsis awareness critical to public health in the pandemic; and

**Whereas**, while the majority of severe sepsis cases originate in a community setting outside of hospitals, sepsis is the leading cause of hospital deaths in the U.S., accounting for 1 in 3 patient deaths in the United States; sepsis generates 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 sepsis care for all hospitals in New York State; and

**Whereas**, New York State has partnered with the Stein Foundation and Home Care Association and emphasized work training to recognize the signs of sepsis; and

**Whereas**, in recognition of Sepsis Awareness Month, 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

**Whereas**, signs and symptoms of sepsis include: elevated temperature, the presence of infection, mental decline or confusion, as well as severe pain, discomfort, and shortness of breath; the risk of mortality from sepsis can increase as much as nine percent for every hour treatment is delayed – however, most sepsis deaths may be prevented with rapid diagnosis and treatment, which is why it is important for the public to understand the seriousness of this illness, and to seek immediate medical treatment as necessary; and

**Whereas**, New York State supports the goals of this initiative, which urges people to become more educated, informed, and aware of sepsis – along with resources for rapid diagnosis and treatment of sepsis – knowing that preventive and precautionary steps can save lives and improve outcomes for sepsis survivors;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim September 2022 as

## SEPSIS AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



**G i v e n** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State  
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this second day of  
September in the year two thousand twenty-two.

Secretary to the Governor  
Karen Persichilli Keogh

Governor