



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, colorectal cancer is a leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States; each year in New York State, approximately 9,000 people develop colorectal cancer and approximately 3,000 lives are lost due to this disease; and

**Whereas**, there are health disparities and divisions along racial lines, whereby the highest rates of death from colorectal cancer occur among the Black community; and

**Whereas**, though 90% of colorectal cancer cases occur in people age 50 years and above, anyone can get colorectal cancer, and the rates of colorectal cancer have been increasing at an alarming rate among individuals under 50 years of age; and

**Whereas**, the risk of developing colorectal cancer can be influenced by general factors such as advancing age, family history, and hereditary conditions; in addition, specific causal factors include personal history of colorectal cancer, inactive lifestyle, a diet high in red or processed meats and low in vegetables or fruits, long-term smoking, and heavy alcohol consumption; and

**Whereas**, colorectal cancer may not always exhibit clear signs, and any unusual health-related changes and uncommon symptoms should immediately be brought to the attention of a doctor; and

**Whereas**, colorectal cancer often can be prevented through regular screenings that can detect small growths which can be removed before they develop into cancer; screening should begin at age 45 and is a covered benefit through Medicaid and health plans participating in the New York State of Health, and the New York State Cancer Services Program also offers no-cost colorectal cancer screening to eligible people who do not have insurance; and

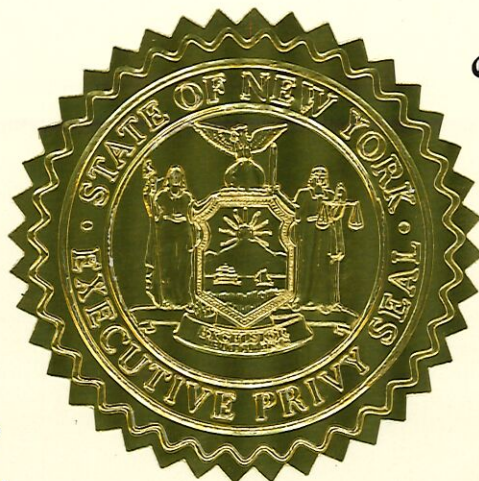
**Whereas**, current statewide and national goals are to achieve screening levels of at least 80% among high risk people and adults 45 years of age and older; people everywhere are urged to increase their awareness and potential risk factors for colorectal cancer and discuss their family history and any potential symptoms with their health care providers; and

**Whereas**, during Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month New Yorkers join in the effort to bring attention to this prevalent, yet detectable and treatable, form of cancer and are encouraged to participate in health-related initiatives, community events, and public awareness and educational resources concerning the importance of early detection; furthermore, everyone is reminded to ask their health care providers about screening and other preventive measures to protect themselves and loved ones against colorectal and all forms of cancer;

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

## COLORECTAL CANCER 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 first day of March in the year two thousand twenty-three.

*Kathy Hochul*  
Governor

*Karen Persichilli Keogh*

Secretary to the Governor  
Karen Persichilli Keogh