



SEPSIS AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATIONS TOOLKIT

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1. Frequently Asked Questions

What is Sepsis Awareness Month, and why is it important?

In 2011, Sepsis Alliance designated September as Sepsis Awareness Month. Every September since, we've invited individuals, healthcare professionals in every area of medicine, and organizations big and small to help save lives by raising awareness of the leading cause of death in U.S. hospitals: sepsis.

Sepsis is the body's life-threatening response to infection. It affects 1.7 million people and takes 350,000 adult lives in the U.S. every year – more than from prostate cancer, breast cancer, and opioid overdose combined. By raising awareness of this deadly condition, we can increase understanding of its signs and symptoms and the need for urgent action, helping to save lives.

What is a Sepsis Awareness Month proclamation?

At the state level, governors have the power to issue proclamations for observances, commemorations, and other occasions. These proclamations bring attention to issues of statewide importance. As part of our larger Sepsis Awareness Month efforts, we encourage advocates to ask their governors to issue proclamations naming September as Sepsis Awareness Month at the state level.

It is thanks to the hard work of sepsis advocates all across the country that as many as 40 states have now recognized the observance over the years!

Should I wait until September to submit my request?

Most states require at least a few weeks to process proclamations requests. Since Sepsis Awareness Month is a month-long observance beginning September 1, we recommend getting requests in well before September (see note about deadlines below).

My state issued a Sepsis Awareness Month proclamation last year. Do I need to go through the proclamation request process again?

Yes – proclamations only cover the year in which they are issued. **They need to be renewed every year.**

What are the deadlines I need to pay attention to?

Every state sets different deadlines for its proclamations. You can check your state's proclamation deadline by visiting your governor's website, or by scrolling to page 5 of this document.

Be sure to check your state's deadline and submit your request within the timeframe specified!

How do I request a proclamation?

The fastest, easiest way to request a Sepsis Awareness Month proclamation is to visit the [Sepsis Alliance Voices Grassroots Action Center](#). There, you can follow a few short prompts to submit a request letter to your governor.

Some states will not accept letter requests for proclamations. If that is the case where you live, scroll to page 5 of this document to find the link to your state's web form.

If the web form requires an organization name, address, or phone number, please use Sepsis Alliance's:

Sepsis Alliance

3180 University Avenue, Suite 310

San Diego, CA 92104

(619) 232-0300

Most proclamation request web forms will require template language (some will specify a certain number of "whereas" clauses). Please copy and paste Sepsis Alliance's template language, findable on page 10 of this document, to fill out that section of the form.

I received a Sepsis Awareness Month proclamation from my state's governor!

What do I do now?

Great news! Once you have received your proclamation, be sure to tell Sepsis Alliance by emailing Amanda: afeinman@sepsis.org. Please include a photo or .pdf of the proclamation as an attachment to your email. This is a crucial part of the process – it helps us keep track of which states have already been secured, and which states still need our effort and attention.



How can I share this news with my local media?

After securing a proclamation from your governor, a great next step is outreaching to media outlets in your area. Media stories about sepsis advocates pursuing proclamations can be an impactful way to extend sepsis awareness in your state and community! [Here is a great example from last year](#), featuring sepsis advocate Carly from Pennsylvania.

An easy way to outreach to local media outlets is by using [Sepsis Alliance's Proclamations Media Outreach tool](#) in the Sepsis Alliance Voices Grassroots Action Center. You can type in your address and a list of local media outlets will pop up, along with text of a letter for you to edit.

In the editable part of the letter, you'll want to fill in information about your motivation for pursuing a proclamation, including your personal connection to sepsis. The more that a media outlet can connect to your personal story, the more likely they will be to publish a news piece about your advocacy. See Carly's story above for an example.

How else can I get involved this Sepsis Awareness Month?

Your involvement doesn't have to end once your proclamation is secured – there are other activities for raising sepsis awareness this September, including the Sepsis Superhero Challenge, social media campaigns, and more! Please visit SepsisAwarenessMonth.org for information on all the ways to get involved.

2. Proclamation Deadlines by State

State	Governor	Deadline	Web Form
Alabama	Kay Ivey	No later than 30 days prior to date needed	https://contact.governor.alabama.gov/contact_procs.aspx
Alaska	Mike Dunleavy	4-6 weeks ahead of the date needed	https://aws.state.ak.us/CrmForms/Home/WebRequest
Arizona	Katie Hobbs	No less than 6 weeks but no more than 12 weeks in advance of the date needed	https://azgovernor.gov/resources/request-a-document
Arkansas	Sarah Huckabee Sanders	At least 30 days prior to the date of the proclamation	https://governor.arkansas.gov/online-services/proclamation-request-form/
California	Gavin Newsom	Not specified – submit your request as early as possible via the contact form	https://www.gov.ca.gov/contact/ (Under "Topic," select "Request – Commemorative Message from the Governor)
Colorado	Jared Polis	At least 4 weeks in advance of the date needed	https://www.colorado.gov/governor/proclamations
Connecticut	Ned Lamont	Your request must be submitted at least 4 weeks prior, but no more than 3 months prior, to the date needed.	https://portal.ct.gov/Office-of-the-Governor/Contact/Request-a-proclamation
Delaware	John Carney	3 weeks in advance of your deadline	https://governor.delaware.gov/request-proclamation-tribute/
Florida	Ron DeSantis	Please allow 4-6 weeks for review	https://www.flgov.com/request-a-proclamation/
Georgia	Brian Kemp	At least 30 days in advance but no more than 6 months in advance of the date needed	https://gov.georgia.gov/contact-us/proclamations/proclamation-request

State	Governor	Deadline	Web Form
Hawaii	Josh Green	At least 4 weeks prior to the requested completion date and not more than 3 months in advance of the date needed	https://governor.hawaii.gov/contact-us/request-a-commemorative-message/
Idaho	Brad Little	At least 3 weeks prior to the date needed	https://gov.idaho.gov/contact/proclamations/
Illinois	JB Pritzker	4 weeks in advance of date needed	https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/gov/contactus/Pages/Proclamation.aspx
Indiana	Eric Holcomb	6-8 weeks in advance of the date needed	https://www.in.gov/gov/governors-office/request-a-proclamation/
Iowa	Kim Reynolds	4-8 weeks before the start of the month of the proclamation date	https://governor.iowa.gov/services/request-proclamation
Kansas	Laura Kelly	You are strongly encouraged to submit your request 6-8 weeks in advance of your requested date	https://governor.kansas.gov/serving-kansans/constituent_services/proclamation-guidelines/
Kentucky	Andy Beshear	Requests require a minimum of 30 days for processing	https://governor.ky.gov/services/proclamations-acclamations
Louisiana	John Bel Edwards	Requests must be submitted at least 14 business days in advance and no earlier than 90 days before the recognized date	https://gov.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/form/home/13
Maine	Janet Mills	Requests must be made 45 days in advance of the date needed	https://www.maine.gov/governor/mills/contact/request_proclamation

State	Governor	Deadline	Web Form
Maryland	Wes Moore	All requests must be submitted 30 days before the requested delivery date	https://md.accessgov.com/governor/Forms/Page/cs/letter/0
Massachusetts	Maura Healey	At least 20 business days in advance of the date needed	https://www.mass.gov/forms/request-a-proclamation-from-governor-healey
Michigan	Gretchen Whitmer	At least 4 weeks in advance of the date needed	https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/news/proclamations
Minnesota	Tim Walz	At least 20 business days in advance of the date needed	https://mn.gov/governor/newsroom/proclamations/proclamationrequest.jsp
Mississippi	Tate Reeves	Not specified – submit proclamation request on the contact page as early as possible.	https://tatereeves.com/contact-%20us/
Missouri	Michael Parson	At least 60 days prior to the date needed	https://governor.mo.gov/contact-us/proclamation-request
Montana	Greg Gianforte	Not specified – submit proclamation request on the contact page as early as possible.	https://montana.servicenowservices.com/gov?id=sc_cat_item&sys_id=553540f11bca5d100b73a8efe54b-cb7f
Nebraska	Jim Pillen	30 days prior to the date needed	https://governor.nebraska.gov/proclamation-request
Nevada	Joe Lombardo	4 weeks in advance of your date of recognition	https://gov.nv.gov/Forms/Request_a_Proclamation/
New Hampshire	Chris Sununu	30 calendar days in advance of the date needed	https://new-hampshire.my.salesforce-sites.com/support/GOV_Proclamation
New Jersey	Phil Murphy	6 weeks in advance of the date needed	https://www.nj.gov/governor/contact/proclamations/

State	Governor	Deadline	Web Form
New Mexico	Michelle Lujan	No less than 45 days but no more than 6 months in advance of the date needed	https://www.governor.state.nm.us/contact-the-governor/requesting-a-proclamation/
New York	Kathy Hochul	30 days in advance of the date needed	https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form
North Carolina	Roy Cooper	120 days before the date needed	https://governor.nc.gov/submit-request/request-proclamation
North Dakota	Doug Burgum	30 days in advance of the date needed	https://www.governor.nd.gov/proclamation-request
Ohio	Mike DeWine	30 days in advance of the date needed	https://governor.ohio.gov/contact/contact-us (Choose "Requesting Proclamation/Special Letter" or "Other" for "Select Issue")
Oklahoma	J. Kevin Stitt	30 days in advance of the date needed	https://oklahoma.gov/governor/contact/commendation-or-proclamation.html
Oregon	Tina Kotek	30 days in advance of the date needed	https://www.oregon.gov/gov/pages/proclamation-request-guidelines.aspx
Pennsylvania	Josh Shapiro	6-8 weeks to process	https://www.governor.pa.gov/contact/
Rhode Island	Dan McKee	30 days in advance of the date needed	https://governor.ri.gov/constituent-services
South Carolina	Henry McMaster	30 days' notice	https://acceleratesc.my.site.com/constituents/s/contact-the-governor (Choose "Request a Recognition" and then "Proclamation")
South Dakota	Kristi Noem	3-4 weeks before the proclamation is needed	https://governor.sd.gov/office/executive-proclamation.aspx
Tennessee	Bill Lee	No less than 21 business days in advance of the date needed	https://www.tn.gov/governor/contact-us/constituent-requests/proclamation-request.html

State	Governor	Deadline	Web Form
Texas	Greg Abbott	Not specified – submit proclamation request on the contact page as early as possible.	https://gov.texas.gov/apps/contact-us/assistance (Under "Issue," select "Ceremonial Items")
Utah	Spencer Cox	6 weeks in advance of the date	https://sf.gov.utah.gov/Contact/s/declaration
Vermont	Phil Scott	4-6 weeks in advance of the date	https://vermontce.my.vermont.gov/s/governor-office-ce?tabset-171b4=2
Virginia	Glenn Youngkin	No fewer than 45 days in advance and no more than 120 days in advance of the date needed	https://www.governor.virginia.gov/constituent-services/request-a-proclamation/
Washington	Jay Inslee	At least 45 days prior	https://governor.wa.gov/contacting-governor/requests-invites/request-ceremonial-proclamation-greeting-or-letter
West Virginia	Jim Justice	Not specified – please submit as early as possible.	https://appengine.egov.com/apps/wv/governor/request-proclamation
Wisconsin	Tony Evers	45-120 days in advance of the date needed	https://appengine.egov.com/apps/wi/governor/document-request
Wyoming	Mark Gordon	No less than 45 days in advance of the date needed	https://governor.wyo.gov/contact/proclamation-requests

3. Template Proclamation Language

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 2023 AS SEPSIS AWARENESS MONTH

Whereas, September has been nationally recognized as Sepsis Awareness Month by Sepsis Alliance to bring awareness to sepsis, the body's life-threatening response to infection, which can lead to tissue damage, organ failure, and death; and

Whereas, according to the CDC, sepsis affects 1.7 million Americans and takes 350,000 adult lives every year in the United States – more than from the devastating health crises of prostate cancer, breast cancer, and opioid overdose combined; and

Whereas, each year, more than 75,000 children in the United States develop severe sepsis and 6,800 of these children die; and

Whereas, communities that have historically lacked access to high-quality healthcare, including some communities of color and individuals experiencing poverty, experience a disproportionate burden of sepsis-related suffering; and

Whereas, sepsis is the number one cost of hospitalization in the United States, at \$62 billion annually; and

Whereas, sepsis survivors have a shortened life expectancy, are more likely to suffer from an impaired quality of life, and often experience after-effects such as amputations (14,000 per year in the United States) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder; and

Whereas, sepsis is the second-leading cause of pregnancy-related mortality in the United States – and the United States has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the industrialized world; and

Whereas, the growing problem of antimicrobial resistance is steadily increasing the frequency of sepsis cases, and making effective sepsis treatment more difficult; and

Whereas, despite the severe danger and widespread occurrence of this illness, a survey conducted by Sepsis Alliance found that less than 15% of U.S. adults can identify the symptoms of sepsis; and

Whereas, the signs of sepsis can be remembered with the mnemonic "TIME," which stands for "Temperature," "Infection," "Mental decline," and "Extremely ill"; and

Whereas, awareness of the signs and symptoms of sepsis along with rapid diagnosis and treatment of sepsis can save lives and improve outcomes for sepsis survivors, as the risk of mortality from sepsis increases by 4-9% for every hour treatment is delayed; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that we hereby recognize September as Sepsis Awareness Month.