

**State of Vermont**  
**Executive Department**  
**A Proclamation**

- WHEREAS,** September has been nationally recognized as Sepsis Awareness 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 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 less than 19% of United States adults can identify the symptoms of sepsis; and
- WHEREAS,** the signs of sepsis can be remembered with the mnemonic “TIME,” which stands for temperature, infections, 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 4-9% for every hour treatment is delayed.

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim September 2023 as

**SEPSIS AWARENESS MONTH**  
in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 5th day of September, A.D. 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Scott", is written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the name "Philip B. Scott" and the title "Governor" are printed.

Philip B. Scott  
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittney J. Wilson", is written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the name "Brittney Wilson" and the title "Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs" are printed.

Brittney Wilson  
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs