

Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorder Associated with Streptococcal infections (PANDAS) and Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) are serious, under-recognized, clinically diagnosed illnesses; and
- Whereas,** a diagnosis of PANDAS or PANS means a child has a sudden, dramatic change in behavior/personality displayed as Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) or disordered eating, together with other cognitive, behavioral, or neurological symptoms following a strep, bacterial, or viral infection; and
- Whereas,** children diagnosed with PANDAS or PANS can display such symptoms as anxiety, emotional lability or depression, irritability, aggression, oppositional behaviors, tics, deterioration in school performance such as loss of writing and math abilities, sensory and motor abnormalities, sleep disturbances, enuresis or urinary frequency, or more severe symptoms such as rages, hallucinations, and suicidal ideation; and
- Whereas,** PANDAS/PANS is often misdiagnosed and undertreated; treatment varies by the needs of the child, but should include treating the source/sources of infection, treating immune system dysfunction, and treating the symptoms. Possible interventions may include antibiotics, steroids, IVIG (intravenous immunoglobulin), plasmapheresis, and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.
- Whereas,** the prevalence of PANDAS/PANS is unknown, but a conservative estimate is 1 in 200, as children are often misdiagnosed as having a mental illness; and
- Whereas,** PANDAS/PANS, if identified and treated promptly, may experience moderate to dramatic improvement following treatment with antibiotics and steroids; and
- Whereas,** building awareness of PANDAS/PANS will help educate medical providers and bring hope and help to those affected.


Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim **October 9, 2025**, as:

PANDAS/PANS Awareness Day

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in observance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Ninth day of October, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Five, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Third Year of the State.



Patrick Morrisey
Governor

By the Governor:



Kris Warner
Secretary of State