

Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** May is *National Skin Cancer and Melanoma Awareness Month*; and
- Whereas,** melanoma is the deadliest of skin cancers. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the incidence of melanoma has doubled during the past three decades in the United States; and
- Whereas,** statistics show the rate of new melanoma diagnoses in West Virginians is rising faster than all other cancers, except liver and bile. Melanoma is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the United States for young people ages 25 to 29; and
- Whereas,** the death rate from melanoma in West Virginia is 22 percent higher than the national average, therefore, making it the third highest in the nation; and
- Whereas,** 70 people in West Virginia die from melanoma every year. It has the fastest rising death rate among West Virginians ages 65 and older and continues to increase by 3 percent every year; and
- Whereas,** according to the Melanoma Research Alliance, 90 percent of all melanomas are caused by ultraviolet radiation from the sun or indoor tanning devices; the use of indoor tanning beds increases the risk of melanoma by 75 percent; and
- Whereas,** according to the National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention, having five or more sunburns doubles a person's risk for melanoma; and
- Whereas,** the CDC finds that education on sun safety for both children and adults can improve awareness of the importance of protecting our skin when spending time outdoors; and
- Whereas,** research from the American Cancer Society shows that higher survival rates of malignant melanoma result of early detection. Early detection of pre-cancerous and cancerous lesions can save a person's life; and
- Whereas,** the Skin Cancer Foundation recommends an annual skin examination with a dermatologist, as well as monthly self-skin examinations to aid in the early detection of skin cancer.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *May 2026* as:

Skin Cancer and Melanoma Awareness Month

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 First Day of May, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Six, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Third Year of the State.



Patrick Morrisey
Governor

By the Governor:



Kris Warner
Secretary of State