



State of
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

Doug Burgum
Governor

PROCLAMATION
NECROTIZING FASCIITIS AWARENESS MONTH
MAY 2017

WHEREAS, necrotizing fasciitis was first described within medical literature in 1883 by Jean Alfred Fournier and was originally described as a disease of unknown cause; and

WHEREAS, it is a serious, yet uncommon bacterial skin infection that spreads quickly and kills the body's soft tissue. Necrotizing fasciitis attracts a high profile within the media as it is often referred to as the "flesh eating bug or virus;" and

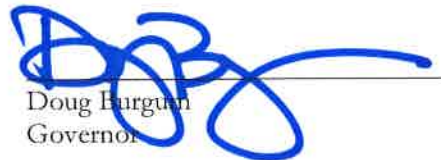
WHEREAS, the most common causes of the disease are the bacteria group A hemolytic, *Streptococcus pyogenes*, and *Staphylococcus aureus*, either alone or in combination. Other cases of necrotizing fasciitis are reported to be caused by other types of bacteria including those naturally found within the intestines of normal healthy individuals; and

WHEREAS, necrotizing fasciitis can occur in any age group, although sometimes there are precipitating factors; it is most commonly associated with surgical procedures. In some cases, necrotizing fasciitis occurs in those with diabetes mellitus, atherosclerotic vascular disease, malignancy and hypertension; and

WHEREAS, in rare occasions it may occur following minor injuries to the skin: falls, cuts, or tears. However, sometimes it is not apparent and can occur in apparently healthy individuals. Although necrotizing fasciitis can affect anywhere on the body, the most common sites for it to involve are the abdomen, arms, legs, extremities, and face particularly around the eyes; and

WHEREAS, while progress has been made in understanding the symptoms and better diagnosing the disease, there is still much to learn about necrotizing fasciitis, but with increased research, the goals of discovering the cause, improving treatment and finding a cure are attainable.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim May 2017 **NECROTIZING FASCIITIS AWARENESS MONTH** in the State of North Dakota.


Doug Burgum
Governor

ATTEST:


Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State