

# STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

## PROCLAMATION

### COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH MARCH 2020

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is a cancer of the colon or rectum which most often begins as a growth, known as polyps, on the inner lining of the colon or rectum; and

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is the second most diagnosed cancer, affecting both men and women in North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, 44 percent of North Dakotans diagnosed with colorectal cancer are diagnosed after the cancer has begun to spread outside the colon; and

WHEREAS, about 384 North Dakotans are diagnosed with colorectal cancer each year and approximately 130 will die from the disease; and

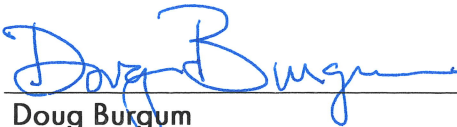
WHEREAS, many people with colon cancer experience no symptoms in the early stages of the disease, but when symptoms occur they may include changes in bowel habits lasting longer than four weeks; rectal bleeding or blood in stool; persistent abdominal discomfort such as cramps, gas or pain; weakness or fatigue and unexplained weight loss; and


WHEREAS, doctors recommend regular screening tests to help prevent colon cancer by identifying and removing polyps before they turn into cancer, and guidelines generally recommend that individuals 50 to 75 years of age schedule regular screenings and those with other risk factors schedule more frequent or earlier screenings; and

WHEREAS, approximately 35 percent of North Dakotans 50 to 75 years of age and older are not up-to-date with colorectal cancer screenings; and increased awareness of the symptoms and the importance of regular cancer screenings can improve the health and wellness of North Dakotans.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim  
March 2020, COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH in the  
State of North Dakota.



  
Doug Burgum  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:   
Alvin A. Jaeger  
SECRETARY OF STATE