

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** stroke is a disease that affects the arteries leading to and within the brain. A stroke occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or ruptures, preventing the brain from receiving blood and oxygen; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2023, stroke was the fourth leading cause of death in South Carolina resulting in 2,974 deaths. One in six people will have a stroke in their lifetime, and strokes are the leading cause of long-term disability, putting a tremendous financial burden on individuals, families, and society; and
- WHEREAS,** life-saving treatments must be administered within 3 - 4.5 hours once symptoms begin, and only a very small percentage of patients arrive at the hospital within the treatment window because the majority of people do not know how to spot a stroke or the importance of calling 911 immediately; and
- WHEREAS,** South Carolina's public and private schools and health and safety focused entities such as hospitals, clinics, medical practices, health departments, pharmacies, fire, EMS, public safety, Social Services, and the South Carolina Department on Aging, will be encouraged to make *Stroke Smart: Spot-a-Stroke, Stop-a-Stroke, Save-a-Life* part of their training for all students, employees, and families; and
- WHEREAS,** while May has been designated as National Stroke Awareness Month, it is essential to remain vigilant and aware of the warning signs of stroke year-round. Therefore, initiatives mentioned throughout this proclamation will continue throughout the year to support ongoing public awareness, community training, and emergency readiness.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry Dargan McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 2026, as

STROKE SMART SOUTH CAROLINA MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to learn about stroke recognition, the importance of dialing 911 and to participate in the *Stroke Smart: Spot-a-Stroke, Stop-a-Stroke, Save-a-Life* campaign.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Henry D. McMaster".

**HENRY DARGAN MCMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**