



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### PENICILLIN ALLERGY DAY

WHEREAS: Penicillin is the most commonly reported drug allergy, as an estimated 10 percent of all Americans and approximately one million Georgia citizens have reported an allergic reaction to a penicillin-class antibiotic; and

WHEREAS: Medical studies have shown that penicillin reactions can sometimes be misdiagnosed, as up to 90 percent of patients and 925,000 Georgia citizens have been misdiagnosed in the past; and

WHEREAS: Inaccurate diagnoses of penicillin can adversely impact medical costs for both patients and health care systems. In the hospital setting, a reported penicillin allergy is associated with 10 percent more hospital days, 30 percent higher incidences of VRE infections, 23 percent higher incidences of C. difficile infections, and 14 percent higher incidences of MRSA infections; and

WHEREAS: Those who report an allergy to penicillin may often require the use of broad-spectrum antibiotics, resulting in 63 percent higher antibiotic costs; and

WHEREAS: Penicillin Allergy Day provides opportunities to raise awareness of penicillin allergies and false penicillin allergy diagnoses, while encouraging penicillin allergy skin testing to decrease the number of inaccurate diagnoses; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 28, 2018, as PENICILLIN ALLERGY DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF