

WHEREAS; while the American Cancer Society (ACS) reports that research on esophageal cancer continues to advance and rates have been decreasing over the past couple of decades, esophageal cancer is still among the deadliest of cancers, as rates of early detection are low and it is usually discovered at an advanced stage; and

WHEREAS; despite accounting for only one percent of U.S. cancer diagnoses, the ACS estimates that esophageal cancer will cause over 16,000 deaths nationwide this year; and

WHEREAS; esophageal cancer can arise through a combination of genetic, environmental, and lifestyle factors, such as frequent tobacco and alcohol use, persistent heartburn, obesity, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), and Barrett’s Esophagus, a precancerous condition that stems from recurring acid reflux; and

WHEREAS; esophageal cancer can be a silent killer, with affected individuals often unaware that their symptoms—heartburn, cough, hoarse voice, sore throat, and chest pain—could be a sign of GERD and a reason to discuss screening for esophageal cancer with their healthcare provider; and

WHEREAS; treatment for esophageal cancer varies by type but frequently may include surgery to remove tumors, portions of the esophagus, or the upper portion of the stomach, as well as chemotherapy, radiation therapy, targeted drug therapy, or immunotherapy; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins dedicated advocates, organizations, and individuals affected by esophageal cancer in raising awareness of the disease, promoting early detection, and encouraging all Wisconsinites to be aware of the signs, symptoms, and risk factors;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim April 2026 as

ESOPHAGEAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

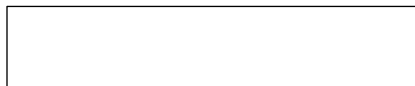
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 23rd day of March 2026.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State