



**WORLD  
LYMPHEDEMA  
DAY®  
IS  
MARCH 6,  
2020**



## What is World Lymphedema Day?

In 2016, the [Lymphatic Education & Research Network \(LE&RN\)](#) petitioned the U.S. Senate and governments around the world for long overdue recognition of lymphedema (LE) and lymphatic diseases. In response, the U.S.

Senate unanimously passed a bill establishing March 6 as [World Lymphedema Day \(WLD\)](#). Governments and organizations worldwide followed suit and celebrated WLD.

Now, together with global lymphedema advocates, we have asked the World Health Organization (WHO) to make "Lymphedema: Awareness & Cures" the focus of [WORLD HEALTH DAY 2021](#).

Our goal is to make lymphedema (LE) and lymphatic diseases (LD) a global priority, to engage governments and researchers around the world to dedicate themselves to finding advanced treatments and cures, and to address the incredible psycho-social burden of those with LE and LD who have felt themselves marginalized, are unable to find treatment, and whose quality of life has been negatively transformed by this disease.

**FACT:**  
WHO estimates that over 250 million people worldwide have LE.

**FACT:**  
NIH estimates that primary LE could affect as many as 1 in 300 live births.

**FACT:**  
Lymphedema (LE) affects an estimated 15% of all cancer survivors and up to 30% of all those treated for breast cancer.

**FACT:**  
WHO estimates that over 120 million are infected with lymphatic filariasis (LF), leaving 40 million disfigured and incapacitated.

**We must make finding a cure a global priority.**

**Miracles await if we dedicate ourselves to finding them.**



**World Lymphedema Day®**  
March 6

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# How to observe World Lymphedema Day

- 1. Sign the petition at Change.org.** There is now an online movement, spearheaded by LE&RN, to urge the World Health Organization (WHO) to make "Lymphedema: Awareness & Cures" its 2021 World Health Day campaign. We must demand that lymphedema become a global health priority.
- 2. Share the petition widely via social media and email.** It is by raising awareness in our own communities that we build a global movement.
- 3. Update your social media profile with the World Lymphedema Day social media badge.** Get the badge at [www.twibbon.com/Support/world-lymphedema-day](http://www.twibbon.com/Support/world-lymphedema-day).
- 4. Look for lymphedema organizations or groups in your country and get involved.** You can also join one of LE&RN's International Chapters, which will be observing the day. In the United States, LE&RN State Chapters are asking local governments to officially recognize March 6 as World Lymphedema Day.
- 5. Visit the World Lymphedema Day Event Page on LE&RN's Facebook page.** Tell the world that you are "going" to World Lymphedema Day on March 6. Leave a comment. Let us know how you'll be celebrating World Lymphedema Day.
- 6. Make a commitment for 2020.** Decide that you will attend a Run/Walk to Fight Lymphedema & Lymphatic Diseases. Sponsor a Walk team. Donate to a lymphedema organization or cause. Join with others who are determined to make a difference on issues ranging from insurance coverage to research. Look for media opportunities to spread the word.
- 7. Most importantly: Join the Fight!**

Find working links at: [www.WorldLymphedemaDay.org](http://www.WorldLymphedemaDay.org)



Lymphatic Education & Research Network