



Philadelphia Department of Public Health  
**Division of Disease Control**

DONALD F. SCHWARZ, MD, MPH  
Deputy Mayor, Health & Opportunity  
Health Commissioner

NAN FEYLER, JD, MPH  
Chief of Staff

CAROLINE C. JOHNSON, MD  
Director, Division of Disease Control

**Health Notification**  
**CDC Hepatitis Awareness Month and Testing Day**  
**May 15, 2012**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has just released a letter to promote Hepatitis Awareness Month and the first ever national observance of Hepatitis Testing Day on May 19th.

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) received more than 6,000 reports of Hepatitis B or C infections in 2010. As many as 75% of Americans infected with chronic hepatitis B or chronic hepatitis C don't know that they have the virus.

Hepatitis C is mainly transmitted through exposure to blood, while hepatitis B can be transmitted through exposure to blood or through sexual contact. While anyone can get hepatitis B or C, some populations are disproportionately burdened with these infections. Please use Hepatitis Awareness Month as an opportunity to talk to your patients about hepatitis risk factors and test those who may have been exposed to either virus. For information on hepatitis risk factors and who should be tested visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Resources/Professionals/PDFs/ABCTable.pdf>

Populations at risk include:

- African Americans, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders
- People who share needles and other equipment when using drugs
- People who get a tattoo or body piercing at an unlicensed facility or "tattoo party"
- People who have unprotected sexual contact with an infected person
- Persons born between 1945-1965
- Men who have sex with men
- People with an HIV infection
- People who live with someone with Hepatitis B

Free hepatitis testing will be offered in Philadelphia this Saturday, May 19 at the following locations:

**[Hepatitis B Screening at the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration](#)**

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Franklin Square, 6th and Race; Philadelphia, PA 19106  
**Services:** Free hepatitis B testing

**[Hepatitis C Screening at the Philadelphia Department of Public Health](#)**

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
**Location:** 500 South Broad Street; Philadelphia, PA 19146  
**Services:** Free hepatitis C testing

**[Hepatitis C Screening at P-HOP's 5th Annual Community Health Fair](#)**

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
**Location:** 2539 Germantown Avenue; Philadelphia, PA 19133  
**Services:** Free hepatitis C, HIV, and STI testing

For more information regarding hepatitis resources from PDPH please visit  
<http://www.phila.gov/health/pdfs/National%20Hepatitis%20Testing%20Day.pdf>

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Philadelphia Department of Public Health

Division of Disease Control • 500 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146

215-685-6740 (phone) • 215-686-4514 (after hours) • 215-545-8362 (fax) • [www.phila.gov/health/DiseaseControl](http://www.phila.gov/health/DiseaseControl) • [hip.phila.gov](mailto:hip.phila.gov)



May 10, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

May is [Hepatitis Awareness Month](#), and May 19th will be recognized as the first ever [Hepatitis Testing Day](#) in the United States. During May, CDC and its public health partners will work to raise awareness of viral hepatitis and encourage testing for those who may be chronically infected. Viral hepatitis is a silent epidemic in the United States because more than 4 million Americans are living with chronic hepatitis B or chronic hepatitis C, and up to 75% don't know they are infected.

During May, CDC is distributing additional materials for the national education campaign called "[Know More Hepatitis.](#)" The campaign will help to raise awareness about hepatitis C and encourage Americans to talk to their doctor and get tested. Visit [www.cdc.gov/knowmorehepatitis](http://www.cdc.gov/knowmorehepatitis) for more information.

CDC will use Hepatitis Testing Day as an opportunity to remind health care providers and the public who should be tested for chronic viral hepatitis. An online [Hepatitis Risk Assessment](#) has been developed to determine a person's hepatitis testing and vaccination recommendations. The tool allows individuals to answer questions privately, either in their home or a health care setting, and then print tailored recommendations based on CDC's guidelines to discuss with their doctor. We encourage you to utilize the risk assessment in your work and share it with others in the field as a way to collectively combat the silent epidemic of viral hepatitis.

CDC's National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP) understands the importance of integrating prevention opportunities because many people at risk for acquiring hepatitis are often at risk for acquiring other diseases addressed by NCHHSTP. Several of the populations hardest hit by viral hepatitis are also disproportionately affected by HIV—presenting multiple opportunities for integrating proven interventions.

We would like to thank each of you for your hard work. Collaboration is a key component towards preventing and controlling viral hepatitis infections - ultimately improving the health of millions of infected Americans.

Sincerely,

/Kevin A. Fenton/

Kevin A. Fenton, MD, PhD, FFPH

Director