



WORLD HEPATITIS DAY 2019

July 24, 2019 – July 28 is World Hepatitis Day- A day that brings people together to raise awareness of the global burden of viral hepatitis and call for real change. Worldwide, more than 300 million people are living with viral Hepatitis unaware of their condition. Without finding the undiagnosed and linking them to care, millions will continue to suffer, and lives will be lost. Join the World Hepatitis Alliance, District Health Department #10, and other entities on July 28 for a day of action and raising awareness to find the “missing millions”.

Viral hepatitis is one of the leading causes of death globally, accounting for 1.34 million deaths per year – that’s as many as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis or malaria. Together, hepatitis B virus and hepatitis C cause 80% of liver cancer cases in the world.

Viral hepatitis is not found in one location nor amongst one set of people; it is a truly global epidemic that can affect millions of people without them even being aware. Currently, 90% of people living with hepatitis B and 80% living with hepatitis C are not aware of their status. This can result in the real possibility of developing fatal liver disease at some point in their lives and in some cases, unknowingly transmitting the infection to others.

With the availability of effective vaccines and treatments for hepatitis B and a cure for hepatitis C, the elimination of viral hepatitis is achievable, but greater awareness and understanding of the disease, risks, and access to cheaper diagnostics and treatment is a must. With the inclusion of viral hepatitis in the Sustainable Development Goals and the recent adoption of the world’s first global hepatitis strategy, we are at a pivotal moment. Now more than ever political commitment is needed. Without urgent action, deaths will continue to rise, and the epidemic will continue to grow. World Hepatitis Day presents an ideal opportunity: an opportunity to join together and raise the profile of viral hepatitis among the public, the world’s media, and on the global health agenda.

For more information about viral hepatitis visit:
<https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/index.htm>, <https://www.who.int/features/qa/76/en/>,
<http://www.worldhepatitisday.org/> or call your local Health Department.

About DHD #10

District Health Department #10 (DHD #10) is Michigan's largest geographical health department, mandated to promote and protect the public from unsafe and hazardous conditions and provide methods of promoting good health and disease prevention. Some of the vital programs provided by DHD #10 include Immunizations, Infectious Disease Control, STI Testing and Counseling, WIC, Maternal Infant Health Program, Healthy Families Northern Michigan, Children's Special Health Services, Hearing and Vision Screening, Family Planning, Cancer Screening, Worksite Wellness, Smoking Cessation, Substance Use Prevention, Chronic Disease Prevention, and Environmental Health Services. DHD #10 serves Crawford, Kalkaska, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Missaukee, Newaygo, Oceana, and Wexford counties. For more information, visit www.dhd10.org.

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