

DHD#10 HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF HEPATITIS AWARENESS MONTH

May 18, 2022 – May is Hepatitis Awareness Month and District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) wants to bring awareness to the vaccines, tests, and treatments of hepatitis infections, as well as promote National Hepatitis Testing Day on May 19th, 2022.

Hepatitis is a communicable disease of the liver, usually transmitted from person-to-person. However, hepatitis can also be transmitted through contaminated food and water. It is recommended that babies be vaccinated against hepatitis A & B. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that anyone over the age of 18 be screened for hepatitis C at least once. Additionally, if people have ongoing risk factors or if they work or live in settings where hepatitis C infections are prevalent, they should be screened more often.

According to the CDC:

- There are several different strains of hepatitis; however, the most common are hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C.
- Chronic hepatitis B and C are the leading causes of liver cancer in the US.
- About 66% of people with hepatitis B, and 40% of people with hepatitis C, are unaware they are infected.
 - Both hepatitis A and B are preventable with safe and effective vaccines, and hepatitis C is curable when prescribed treatment.

“We want people to know that hepatitis is serious, but also preventable and treatable,” said DHD#10 Health Officer Kevin Hughes. “Hepatitis awareness month, and national hepatitis testing day, aren’t just about raising awareness about hepatitis and getting folks tested or vaccinated, but it is also about removing the stigma surrounding hepatitis infections.”

For those interested in getting screened for or vaccinated against hepatitis, contact DHD#10 at 888-217-3904.

To read more about hepatitis from the CDC, please visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/index.htm>.

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