

MEDIA RELEASE

Information **Advisory** **Warning** **Update**

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St. Clair County Health Department Recognizes World Hepatitis Day July 28

The St. Clair County Health Department recognizes World Hepatitis Day on July 28. Endorsed by the World Hepatitis Alliance and the World Health Organization (WHO), World Hepatitis Day aims to raise awareness of the 300 million people living with Viral Hepatitis worldwide who do not know they are infected.

Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver. Viral hepatitis accounts for 1.34 million deaths per year. Together, hepatitis B and hepatitis C cause 80% of liver cancer cases in the world. In Michigan alone, hepatitis C caused 174 deaths in 2015. From 2005 to 2016, the number of chronic hepatitis C cases among 18-29 year old adults has increased over 493%. In 2016, there were 1,284 new chronic hepatitis B cases in Michigan. For St. Clair County in 2016, there were 202 new chronic hepatitis C cases. For St. Clair County in 2016, there were 14 new chronic hepatitis B cases.

Risks factors that can increase the chance for becoming infected with hepatitis are:

- Living with someone infected with hepatitis
- Having sexual contact with an infected person
- Using injection or non-injection drugs (including marijuana)
- Being incarcerated or having been incarcerated

Talk to your healthcare provider to determine if you need to be tested. Though the St. Clair County Health Department does not test for hepatitis, we provide vaccines to help prevent hepatitis A and hepatitis B. To schedule an appointment or for more information call (810) 987-5300. Visit us at www.scchealth.co or follow us on social media @scchdmi. **###END###**