

## NEW JERSEY AIDS/HIV/STD HOTLINE

### *PRESS RELEASE*

July 2016

## **NOhep... Our Next Greatest Achievement World Hepatitis Day – July 28, 2016**

**(Newark, NJ)** – What is NOhep and why is it so important to spread the word?

“NOhep is a global movement aimed at uniting the hepatitis community and beyond to take action, to speak out and be engaged to ensure global commitments are met and viral hepatitis is eliminated by 2030.”<sup>1</sup>

Chronic viral hepatitis is a serious illness as well as a public health threat to us all. It does not discriminate...the risks are the same for everyone regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and where you live. It has potentially devastating consequences, including liver failure and liver cancer, if left untreated.

There is no better time than now to join the global movement to raise awareness about untreated hepatitis infection. “Unlike many other illnesses, the solution exists. With a highly effective preventative vaccine and treatment available for hepatitis B, and with a cure for hepatitis C, the elimination of these cancer-causing diseases can be achieved within our lifetime.”<sup>2</sup>

Viral hepatitis by the numbers<sup>3 4</sup>

- 1.4 million deaths per year (more than malaria or AIDS)
- 95% of people living with viral hepatitis aren't aware
- 4,000 deaths per day
- 380 million people infected
- More than 10 million new cases each year
- Less than 1 percent (%) of people living with viral hepatitis receive treatment

Millions of people both in the United States and around the world are now living with hepatitis and yet most of them are unaware of their infection. Getting tested is the only way to know for sure if you are infected. Knowing your infection status allows you to take control over decisions that will ultimately affect your health and wellbeing; it could save your life so get tested today!

According to the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention), there are four important things everyone should know about hepatitis<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Nohep Factsheet. World Hepatitis Day website. Accessed July 26, 2016.

[http://worldhepatitisday.org/sites/default/files/campaign\\_materials/nohep.factsheet.pdf](http://worldhepatitisday.org/sites/default/files/campaign_materials/nohep.factsheet.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> Nohep...Our Next Greatest Achievement Infographic. World Hepatitis Day website. Accessed July 26, 2016. [http://worldhepatitisday.org/sites/default/files/campaign\\_materials/achievement\\_-\\_en.jpg](http://worldhepatitisday.org/sites/default/files/campaign_materials/achievement_-_en.jpg)

<sup>5</sup> Hepatitis Testing Day – May 19. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website. Accessed July 26, 2016. <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/testingday>

1. Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C are all different diseases.
2. Chronic hepatitis is a leading cause of liver cancer.
3. Most people with chronic hepatitis do not know they are infected.
4. Getting tested could save your life.

### Call to action: Know your hepatitis status – Get out and get tested

Our staff (healthcare professionals at the New Jersey AIDS/HIV/STD Hotline) and the CDC urge all Americans, including pregnant women, to get tested for hepatitis. A simple blood test is all that is needed to know if you are infected. If you are infected, we strongly urge you to seek medical care immediately. Early detection and treatment can make all the difference in living a long, healthy life. Those that are not infected should speak to their healthcare professionals about getting vaccinated to prevent getting the virus in the future. <http://worldhepatitisday.org/>

For more information, questions, or concerns about hepatitis, as well as, HIV and other STIs, contact us either by phone at 1-800-624-2377, text/email at [8006242377@njpies.org](mailto:8006242377@njpies.org), or chat [www.njhivstdline.org](http://www.njhivstdline.org). Calls are free and confidential. Help is always available. Services are available 24 hours a day, seven (7) days a week, every day of the year.

- Referrals for testing sites and other related services
- HIV/AIDS, STD and hepatitis prevention information
- HIV counseling and treatment locations
- HIV treatment information

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#### New Jersey AIDS/HIV/STD Hotline

Healthcare professionals provide telephone consultation for people seeking information about HIV/AIDS, and other sexually transmitted diseases including hepatitis. Callers receive information tailored to their needs; discussion about prevention, referrals for testing sites and other related services, counseling and testing locations, and information on treatment and adverse reactions to medications. The hotline's services are provided by the staff at the hotline, nurses, pharmacists and physicians, administered by the New Jersey Poison Center and funded by the New Jersey Department of Health, Division of HIV, STD, and TB services.

#### About Rutgers

Established in 1766, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, is America's eighth oldest institution of higher learning and one of the nation's premier public research universities. Serving more than 65,000 students on campuses, centers, institutes and other locations throughout the state, Rutgers is the only public university in New Jersey that is a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities.

Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS) is the health care education, research, and clinical division of Rutgers University, comprising nine schools and their attendant faculty practices, centers, institutes and clinics; New Jersey's leading comprehensive cancer care center; and New Jersey's largest behavioral health care network.