

## NEW JERSEY AIDS/HIV/STD HOTLINE

### *PRESS RELEASE*

July 2017

## **No Hepatitis B & C by 2030** World Hepatitis Day – July 28<sup>th</sup>

**(Newark, NJ)** – Eliminating hepatitis around the world is closer than we may think. Last year's World Health Assembly adopted The World Health Organization's (WHO) strategy to eliminate the viruses in the next 13 years (2030). With increased awareness, testing and treatment, hepatitis is a problem we can solve in our lifetime!

Viral hepatitis does not seem to make the headlines the way HIV and other diseases do even though it kills more people around the world than HIV and other diseases combined. It's a real threat – a global health crisis that affects all, not just one country or one group of people. Most who are infected have no idea that they have hepatitis. If left untreated, it can have devastating health consequences (liver damage, failure or cancer) and death.

There is no better time than now to join the No global movement. On World Hepatitis Day (WHD), we have the power to influence change. Let's get communities talking about eliminating hepatitis through vaccines, testing and treatment.

### Fast Facts about viral hepatitis:

- Most common types are Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C. They are different from one another.
- Populations most at risk for Hepatitis B are Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities.<sup>1</sup>
- Baby boomers, those born between the years of 1945 and 1965, are at high risk of Hepatitis C infection.<sup>2</sup>
- Most people are not aware of their status - 90% of people living with hepatitis B and 80% living with hepatitis C.<sup>3</sup>
- Vaccine and treatment are available for Hepatitis B. There is a cure for Hepatitis C, but no vaccine.
- A simple blood test is all you need to know if you are infected.

## KNOW YOUR STATUS – GET TESTED

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<sup>1</sup> [Asian Americans and Hepatitis B](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Hepatitis C: Why People Born from 1945 to 1965 Should Get Tested](#)

<sup>3</sup> [About World Hepatitis Day 2017](#)

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 professional about being vaccinated to prevent getting the virus in the future.

For more information, questions, or concerns about hepatitis, as well as, HIV and other STIs (sexually transmitted infections), 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, STD and hepatitis prevention and treatment information
- Counseling and treatment locations
- Partner notification
- ADDP

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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.