

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 14-0403
Recognizing May 2014 as "Hepatitis Awareness Month"

WHEREAS, today is National Hepatitis Testing Day; Hepatitis C is recognized as the most common blood-borne viral infection in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis C has infected an estimated 85,000 Coloradans, as many as 4 million American residents (nearly 2 out of every 100 persons), and more than 200 million worldwide; and

WHEREAS, it is the leading cause of cirrhosis and liver cancer, and the number one reason for liver transplants in the United States; and

WHEREAS, more Americans die of Hepatitis C than from HIV, making Hepatitis C one of the top preventable causes of death in the United States; and

WHEREAS, approximately 15,000 Hepatitis C-related deaths occur annually in the United States and is expected to triple in the next 10 to 20 years; and

WHEREAS, people born between 1945 and 1965 are five times more likely to be infected than other adults, nearly three in four people with Hepatitis C were born between 1945 and 1965; and many remain unaware of their status without participating in screening efforts; and

WHEREAS, the incidence of Hepatitis C disproportionately affects minority communities; and

WHEREAS, 75 percent of infected persons do not show any signs or symptoms, leading the Hepatitis C virus to cause poor health outcomes and be labeled as the "the silent epidemic"; and

WHEREAS, new drugs were approved that significantly increase the cure rate among Hepatitis C patients seeking treatment and even more effective treatments are on the horizon; and

WHEREAS, risk factors can be evaluated, Hepatitis C can be prevented, testing can detect Hepatitis C virus infections, and early diagnosis and treatment can save lives, money and resources; and

WHEREAS, Hep C Connection is available as a local resource for education, testing, linkage to care and support.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. The Denver City Council agrees that preventing and treating Hepatitis C is an important public health initiative that will improve the quality of life for Denver residents affected by the virus.

Section 2. The Denver City Council proclaims the month of May as Hepatitis Awareness Month and recognizes July 28, 2014 as World Hepatitis Day.

Section 3. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Nancy Steinfurth, Executive Director of Hep C Connection.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL May 19, 2014

PRESIDENT