

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 15-0359
Recognizing May 19th as “Hepatitis Testing Day” and July 28th as “World Hepatitis Day”

WHEREAS, May 19th is National Hepatitis Testing Day and July 28th is World Hepatitis 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 70,000 Coloradans, as many as 4 million American residents (nearly 1 in 50 persons), and more than 130 million people 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, as many as 17,000 Hepatitis C-related deaths occur annually in the United States; these rates are expected to peak between the years 2030 and 2035 at 36,000 deaths per year; and

WHEREAS, people born between 1945 and 1965 are 5 times more likely to be infected than other adults; more than 75 percent of all people with Hepatitis C in the United States are people in this age range, and many remain unaware of their status because they have not been tested for the virus; and

WHEREAS, the incidence of Hepatitis C disproportionately affects people of color; 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 silent epidemic”; and

WHEREAS, the majority of individuals living with Hepatitis C infection can be cured of the virus through the advent of effective treatment options currently available on the market; and those cured through treatment are able to stop and even reverse damage to the liver caused by the virus; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis C treatment costs are less than one-fifth the cost of liver transplants; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis C can be prevented; testing can identify existing infections; and early diagnosis and treatment can save lives, money, and resources; and

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

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 May 19th as Hepatitis Testing Day and recognizes July 28th 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 18, 2015

President