

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 12-0344

Recognizing Saturday, May 19, 2012, as Hepatitis Testing Day in Denver

WHEREAS, 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 citizens (nearly 2 out of every 100 persons), and over 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 it is expected to triple in the next 10-20 years; and

WHEREAS, one in thirty-three baby boomers has Hepatitis C, and this population may remain unaware of their status without increased screening efforts; and

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

WHEREAS, seventy-five percent of infected persons do not show any signs or symptoms of the virus, and the virus causes poor health outcomes, and is labeled as the "the silent epidemic"; and

WHEREAS, the projected direct and indirect costs of the Hepatitis C epidemic, through 2019, is \$85 billion; and

WHEREAS, new drugs were approved that significantly increase the cure rate among Hepatitis C patients seeking treatment; 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, May is Hepatitis Awareness Month, and Saturday, July 28, 2012, is World Hepatitis Day.

NOW THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. That 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 and will reduce Medicaid costs and encourages Denver citizens to participate in the Hepatitis Testing Activities on Friday, May 18, 2012 and Saturday, May 19, 2012.

Section 2. 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, Hep C Connection; Dr. William Burman, Denver Health; and Doug Linkhart, Manager of Denver Environmental Health.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL May 14, 2012

PRESIDENT