

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

## Proclamation No. 19-0473

### 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**, mortality due to hepatitis C is increasing in Colorado, particularly among people born between 1945 and 1965, with over 19,000 hepatitis C-related deaths occur annually in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Hepatitis B accounts for almost 14,000 annual deaths in the United States, there are currently about 15,436 people in Colorado living with chronic, unresolved hepatitis B infection and fewer than one-third of people with chronic hepatitis B are aware of their infection; and

**WHEREAS**, Hepatitis B and C cause an estimated 61 percent of liver cancer (hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) in the U.S and the opioid epidemic is fueling an increase in HBV and HCV positive cases; and

**WHEREAS**, hepatitis C has infected an estimated 50,975 Coloradans, as many as 2.7 million American residents and more than 130 million people worldwide; and is the leading cause of cirrhosis, liver cancer, and liver transplants in the United States; 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**, Liver Health Connection is available as a statewide resource for education, testing, linkage to care, patient navigation, helpline 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 viral hepatitis 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 Liver Health Connection.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL May 13, 2019

\_\_\_\_\_ PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_ SPONSOR