



Central Michigan District Health Department

Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities



Steve Hall, RS, MS
Health Officer

Jennifer Morse, MD, MPH, FAAFP
Medical Director

PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

To: Local Media Outlets
From: Central Michigan District Health Department
RE: CMDHD Recognizing Hepatitis Awareness Month
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CMDHD is Recognizing May as Hepatitis Awareness Month

Decrease your chance of infection by getting vaccinated for hepatitis A & hepatitis B
and getting regularly screened for hepatitis C.

Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) recognizes May as Hepatitis Awareness Month and urges everyone to get vaccinated for hepatitis A & hepatitis B and get regularly screened for hepatitis C. Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver with various underlying causes. If left untreated, it may cause lifelong infection that leads to serious liver damage or liver cancer. There are at least five different types of hepatitis (A-E); the three most common in the United States are hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C.

“It’s important to know your status with hepatitis A, B, and C, so you can stop the viruses from spreading, get treatment if needed, and keep yourself and others healthy,” said Connie Lance, CMDHD Community Health Supervisor. CMDHD offers hepatitis A and B vaccines through our Personal Health department, and we screen for hepatitis C through our Community Health department. Call 989-314-7570 to make an appointment.

Hepatitis A is usually obtained from consuming contaminated food or drink or through close contact with a person who has the hepatitis A virus (HAV). HAV is very contagious. Although HAV is very easily spread, it is also preventable through a safe and effective vaccine, which is recommended for all children who are at least 12 months old.

Hepatitis B is highly contagious and transmitted through direct contact with bodily fluids from someone infected with the hepatitis B virus (HBV). A person infected with HBV can still be contagious even without the presence of symptoms. Hepatitis B is preventable through a vaccine and is even recommended for newborns, as it can be passed to the baby through childbirth.

Please visit us online at www.cmdhd.org.

Hepatitis C is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV) that can lead to chronic infection, causing cirrhosis, liver cancer, liver failure and death if left untreated. HCV is mostly spread through blood-to-blood contact with an infected person. Today, hepatitis C positivity is surging due to the increase of IV drug use and the sharing of needles, syringes, and other equipment. HCV causes almost no signs or symptoms, so the only way to know if you are infected is through regular routine screening. Although there is currently not a vaccine for hepatitis C, it is a treatable infection. Speak to your healthcare provider about hepatitis C treatment options.

CMDHD offers a syringe service program called Exchange Central. Exchange Central is an anonymous and confidential program that provides participants clean needles and other equipment for injection drug use, overdose prevention medication, HCV, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), and other sexually transmitted infection (STI) screenings with linkage to care for infected individuals. CMDHD offers free contraceptives, along with community referrals, at no cost to participants to help decrease the spread of infectious blood diseases like HCV and HIV. Exchange Central also allows for secondary exchange, meaning that anyone can come in and receive supplies for others. Please call or text (989) 259-4549 to make an appointment.

Learn more about Exchange Central by visiting <https://www.cmdhd.org/exchange-central>. Additional information about hepatitis can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/abc/index.htm>.

This article has been brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola, and Roscommon. Visit our website at www.cmdhd.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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