



Liver Health  
Connection

# About Liver Health Connection

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Liver Health Connection's mission is to promote liver health, provide education, & to support & advocate on behalf of those affected by liver diseases.

We serve Colorado through our programs and the nation through our HelpLine.

In 2017, we:

- provided antibody testing to 2,980 people
- educated 1,683 attendees at 105 presentations
- answered 1,143 HelpLine & Help4Hep calls
- provided 826 services to 216 active patient navigation clients





# Public Policy

- Senate Joint Resolutions at the Colorado Legislature for multiple years – developed awareness, identified legislative supporters – tested at the Capitol
- Passed hepatitis C testing bill for baby boomers in 2014; increased testing within private pay systems
- Denver City Councilman has sponsored awareness activities and resolution for many years – personal connection to HCV





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# Viral Hepatitis Task Force

- Organized for State Health Department
- 30+ participating organizations that provide services to people with risk factors
- Agenda includes medical updates, testing goals, syringe exchange results, trouble shooting issues like lack of PCP medical homes
- Will be incorporating Colorado Cancer Plan goals for HBV vaccination of adults and reduction of peri-natal transmission, HCV testing among baby boomers





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# National Hepatitis Testing Day

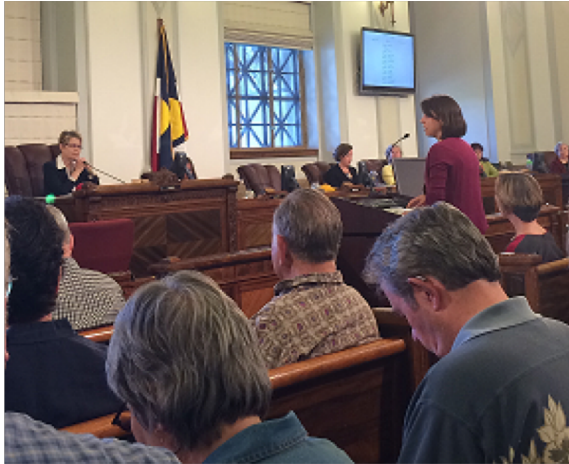
- LHC coordinates a centralized testing event for Denver, usually held in a City building
- In 2018 NHTD will be held outside in Confluence Park, which is frequented by persons who are experiencing homelessness and/or use substances
- Flyers, press release and resolution templates provided for organizations outside Denver that are also recognizing May 19





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# National Hepatitis Testing Day



**NATIONAL HEPATITIS TESTING DAY**  
**FREE HEPATITIS C TESTING**

- More than 3 million Americans have Hepatitis C
- Hepatitis C is the leading cause of cirrhosis and liver cancer
- Hepatitis C testing is not part of routine blood work
- People may not show signs and symptoms for years
- Hepatitis C is treatable, and in most cases, curable

**FREE TEST · SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2018**  
[www.stepuptohepc.com](http://www.stepuptohepc.com)

**FREE HEPATITIS C TESTING & Linkage to Care Services**  
**THERE IS A CURE!**

**LIVER HEALTH CONNECTION**  
Confluence Park, East Side  
2250 15th Street, Denver  
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.




**PROCLAMATION**  
City and County of Denver

Proclamation 17-0845  
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 3.5 million American residents (nearly 1 in 60 persons), 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, as many as 20,000 Hepatitis C-related deaths occur annually in the United States; these rates are expected to peak between the years 2030 and 2035 at 38,000 deaths per year, making Hepatitis C one of the top preventable causes of death; 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 are largely unaware of the condition due to lack any signs, symptoms and testing; leading Hepatitis C to be labeled as "the silent epidemic"; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis C disproportionately affects people of color; and the majority of individuals living with the 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 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.

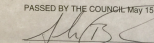
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

Section 1. The Denver City Council agrees that preventing and treating Hepatitis C is an important public health initiative that will improve the quality of life for 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 15, 2017



President

**NATIONAL HEPATITIS TESTING DAY**

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**FREE TEST · FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2017**  
[www.stepuptohepc.com](http://www.stepuptohepc.com)

**WESTERN COLORADO HEALTH NETWORK-WCAP**  
2352 North 7th Street, Suite A1, Grand Junction  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.





May 11, 2017  
National Hepatitis Testing Day  
For More Information: Karen Chappelow, 720-917-3960

**Raising Awareness about Hepatitis C with free testing at multiple sites throughout Colorado**  
Colorado will recognize May 19, 2017 as National Hepatitis C Testing Day by offering free testing at 11 locations statewide and one location on May 18, 2017.

Approximately 3.4 million people in the U.S. are infected with chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV). Of these, 50% are undiagnosed and most were born in the baby boomer age cohort, from 1945 to 1965.

Colorado nonprofits organizations are offering free HCV antibody testing to help identify people with the virus and to increase awareness. Left undiagnosed or untreated, HCV can lead to cirrhosis, liver cancer, or death. Nearly 20,000 deaths in the U.S. were associated with HCV in 2013.

Hepatitis C remains undiagnosed for many people because the symptoms of fatigue and achy joints are often confused with other health issues. It's not a standard test in your primary care doctor's office, although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends it for baby boomers. Risk factors over the years have included transmission in health care settings before universal precautions, blood transfusion before 1992, when a test of the blood supply could accurately detect the virus, an gun inoculation for military service which resulted in skin tears and sharing of blood, and sharing needles or works when injecting drugs.

There are multiple treatments for the hepatitis C virus on the marketplace and they are considered cures for this virus. Competition has lowered the price and it is offered more frequently through a variety of public and private payer systems.

Anyone can be tested for HCV, but Liver Health Connection and the CDPHE especially recommend testing for those born between 1945 and 1965. Also at risk are those who had a blood transfusion or a blood product like Rhogam before 1992, obtained a tattoo outside of a licensed facility, or injected or snorted drugs – even once. In addition, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention says men who have had sex with other men should be tested.

Colorado test sites are listed below. Liver Health Connection would also like to acknowledge and thank Oursure Technologies, Inc. for donating 100 test kits. For more information about hepatitis in Colorado, visit the Step Up to Hep Colorado blog at: <http://stepuptohepc.com/wordpress/>.

National Hepatitis Testing Day in the United States is part of an educational initiative of the CDC's [Division of Viral Hepatitis](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis) and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' [Combating the Silent Epidemic of Viral Hepatitis: Action Plan for the Prevention, Care & Treatment of Viral Hepatitis](http://www.hhs.gov/ashd/cdc). Updated 2014-2016.

1325 South Colorado Blvd., Ste B-302, Denver, CO 80222 • [info@liverhealthconnection.org](mailto:info@liverhealthconnection.org)

MEDIA CONTACT: Karen Chappelow 720-917-3960

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES  
Nancy Steinfurth, Executive Director of Liver Health Connection is available for on-camera, in-studio or telephone interviews. • 720-917-3965 • [nsteinfurth@liverhealthconnection.org](mailto:nsteinfurth@liverhealthconnection.org)  
Karen Chappelow, Director of Community Outreach • 720-917-3960 • [kchappelow@liverhealthconnection.org](mailto:kchappelow@liverhealthconnection.org)

Additional resources:  
• Liver Health Connection: <http://www.liverhealthconnection.org>  
• Step Up to Hep Blog: <http://www.stepuptohepc.com/wordpress.com>  
• CDPHE: <http://www.colorado.gov/specific/cdph/hepatitis>

**TEST SITE: May 18th, 2017**  
Eumecol Social Ministries (SCAP)  
• 201 North Weber Street, Colorado Springs 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 May 18th.  
Call 719-578-9092 for more information

**TEST SITES: National Hepatitis Testing Day, May 19th, 2017**  
**Northern Colorado Area Project**  
• 400 Remington St. #100 Fort Collins, CO 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
**Boulder County AIDS Project**  
• 2118 14th Street, Boulder 10:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m.  
**DCAP**  
• 6280 East Colfax Avenue, Denver Testing will be on a walk-in basis.  
**Elav/Denver**  
• 1720 Pearl Street Denver 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
**Denver Indian Health and Family Service**  
• 1633 Fillmore Street, Denver 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
**Liver Health Connection**  
• Wellington Webb Building, Main Floor 201 W. Colfax Ave, Denver 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
**Jefferson County Public Health**  
• 814 Perkin Street, Lakewood 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
**Western Colorado Health Network (WCHN)**  
• 2352 North 7th Street, Ste A1, Grand Junction 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
**Southern Colorado Health Network**  
• 1305 South 8th Street, Ste 200, Colorado Springs 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
**May 18th and 19th Appointment only 719-578-9092**  
**Southern Colorado Health Network**  
• 807 North Greenwood Street, Ste 200, Pueblo 8:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
**May 16th, 17th, 18 and 19th** Call 719-621-1105 to make appointment

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# World Hepatitis Day

- We also coordinate the state's activities for World Hepatitis Day
- Past events have included:
  - Ruckus Raising
  - Complaints Choir
  - Hear/See/Speak no Evil Guinness Book of Records
  - Graffiti Mural
  - Testing, including confirmatory





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# Photos of WHD





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# We're Happy to Share our Materials - Contact us

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Karen Chappelow

Director of Community Outreach

720-917-3960

[kchappelow@liverhealthconnection.org](mailto:kchappelow@liverhealthconnection.org)

Nancy Steinfurth

Executive Director

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