



Hepatitis Awareness Month 2026

Spread the word about hepatitis testing, prevention and treatment using the hashtags [#HepatitisAwarenessMonth](#) and [#NationalHepatitisTestingDay](#).

May 19, 2026 By Eva Lorenz

May is [Hepatitis Awareness Month](#), a time to encourage [testing](#), [vaccination](#) and [treatment](#) for [hepatitis A](#), [hepatitis B](#) and [hepatitis C](#).



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A post shared by Hepbfoundation (@hepbfoundation)

Hepatitis A virus (HAV) is an acute form of hepatitis, meaning it does not cause long-term or chronic infection, but it can cause mild to severe symptoms and occasionally acute, often fatal, [liver failure](#). The best way to prevent HAV is to get vaccinated. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimated [35,569 people](#) died of HAV in 2023, accounting for 2.6% of hepatitis-related deaths in the world.

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV) are highly contagious viral infections that can cause [liver damage](#). Acute HBV and HCV are new infections that last up to six months. Chronic HBV and HCV last more than six months.



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A post shared by Washtenaw County Health Dept (@wcpublichealth)

In its latest [Global Hepatitis Report](#), the WHO estimated that 287 million people (3% of the global population) were living with chronic HBV or HCV in 2024. The report revealed that HBV and HCV claimed 1.34 million lives in 2024, accounting for 95% of hepatitis-related deaths worldwide.



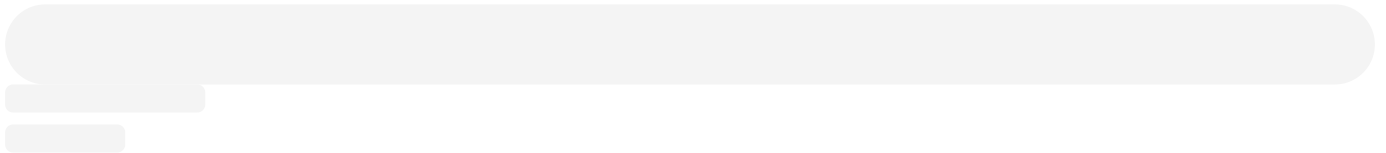
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A post shared by NCDHHS (@ncdhhs)

If left untreated, hepatitis B and C can lead to serious liver complications, like [cirrhosis](#) and [liver cancer](#). There is no vaccine for HCV, but [direct-acting antiviral therapy](#) cures chronic hepatitis C in more than 95% of people who complete treatment, which typically takes two or three months. Vaccines can [prevent HBV infection](#) and its consequences. Antiviral treatment keeps HBV replication under control, but it seldom leads to a cure.

To learn more about the transmission, symptoms and treatment of hepatitis A, B, C and [D](#), read Hep's [Basics on Hepatitis](#).

Liver health organizations and nonprofits are taking to social media to spread the word about the impacts of hepatitis.





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A post shared by American Liver Foundation (@americanliver)

May 15 was [National Hispanic Hepatitis Awareness Day](#). The [Latino Commission on AIDS](#) is holding a webinar in Spanish at 5 p.m. ET on May 18 to discuss the impacts of hepatitis in [Latinos](#) and the [LGBTQ](#) community. The session explores the latest hepatitis [risks](#), [symptoms](#), [transmission](#) and medical advancements in treatment while blending diverse perspectives and personal stories from panelists. [Click here](#) to register for the session.



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A post shared by Louisiana Health Hub (@lahealthhub)

The [Latino Commission on AIDS](#) will hold other hepatitis webinars in Spanish throughout the month, including sessions on the [basic concepts of hepatitis C](#) on May 27 and [policy changes in HIV and hepatitis care](#) on May 28.



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A post shared by NASTAD (@nastad1992)

May 19 is [National Hepatitis Testing Day](#). The primary goal of Hepatitis Testing Day is to encourage more individuals to get tested for hepatitis and learn their status. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) recommends universal HCV and HBV [screening](#) for all adults over age 18 at least once in their lifetime.



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A post shared by Maine CDC (@mainecdc)

The CDC also has graphics and posts available in its [social media tool kit](#) to promote Hepatitis Awareness Month and [Hepatitis Testing Day](#). Use the hashtags #HepatitisAwarenessMonth, #NationalHepatitisTestingDay and #KnowYourStatus to spread the word about hepatitis testing, prevention and treatment.