



**DCHHS**  
*Safe families, healthy lives*  
Dallas County Health and Human Services



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DCHHS Observes World Hepatitis Day**

**DALLAS (July 27, 2021)** – World Hepatitis Day (WHD) is observed each year on July 28th to raise awareness of viral hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver that causes severe liver disease and hepatocellular cancer. Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) will offer free and confidential hepatitis testing and information to Dallas County residents.

This year's WHD theme, "Hepatitis can't wait," conveying the urgency of efforts needed to eliminate hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030. Every 30 seconds, a person dies due to a hepatitis-related illness. The COVID-19 pandemic has not stopped the spread of this virus, a reason to take action on viral hepatitis.

There are five main strains of the hepatitis virus A, B, C, D, and E. Hepatitis B and C are the most common in people causing 1.1 million deaths and 3 million new infections per year.

Dallas County has seen a significant increase in Hepatitis A cases in 2021. Compared to the 2020 surveillance data, Hepatitis A cases have increased by 925%. Public Health officials have confirmed 123 total cases of Hepatitis A among high-risk individuals affecting the homeless and illicit drug users in Dallas County.

"World Hepatitis Day serves as an important reminder that hepatitis still exists in our community and should not be ignored," said Dr. Philip Huang, Director of DCHHS. "There are many ways in which hepatitis can be prevented. Taking preventive measures, getting tested and treated, if needed, are the first steps."

DCHHS recommends getting vaccinated against Hepatitis A. People who are homeless, men who engage in sex with other men, and illicit drug users are at a higher risk of getting the virus.

Hepatitis A vaccine is available at DCHHS, at no cost, for people who are considered high-risk. If you are interested in getting vaccinated contact DCHHS at 214-819-2162 or any health care provider for assistance.

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