



Hepatitis

May is Hepatitis Awareness Month. Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver^[1]. Viral hepatitis includes Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E. The most common types of viral hepatitis in the United States are Hepatitis A, B, and C^[1]. Hepatitis B and C can become chronic lead to lifelong complications and disease.

Hepatitis A

- Highly infectious liver infection
- Transmitted by fecal-oral route either person-to-person or contaminated food/water
- Signs and Symptoms include: fatigue, nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps
- Does not result in chronic disease
- Best prevention is through vaccination. Vaccination is recommended for all children and adults at increased risk^[2].

Hepatitis B

- Liver infection transmitted from infected person through blood, semen or body fluid
- Transmission methods include: sexual contact, needle sharing, and mother to baby at birth^[3]
- Signs and symptoms include: abdominal pain, dark urine, fever, joint pain
- Infection may be acute (short-term) or chronic (long-term)
- Best prevention is through vaccination. Vaccination is recommended for all infants at birth or adults at increased risk^[3]

Perinatal Hepatitis B

- Can be spread through birth from infected mom to baby by either vaginal birth or C-section
- 90% of babies who become infected with Hepatitis B at birth will develop a chronic Hepatitis B infection^[4]
- Transmission is preventable through Hepatitis B vaccine and HBIG given within 12 hours of birth^[4]
- All pregnant moms should be tested for Hepatitis B

Hepatitis C

- Blood-borne virus that can cause acute or chronic illness
- Majority of those infected will develop chronic disease
- Majority of individuals may not know they are ill because they do not experience illness or symptoms^[5]
- **CDC recommends everyone born between 1945-1965 be tested as 75% of people living with Hepatitis C were born then**^[5]

Get Tested!

May 19th is National “Hepatitis Testing Day”



Public Health
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Yates County, NY



Sources:

[1] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016, March 28). Viral Hepatitis. Retrieved March 16, 2017, from <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hepawarenessmonth.htm>

[2] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015, August 27). Hepatitis A Information. Retrieved March 16, 2017, from <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/index.htm>

[3] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015, May 15). Hepatitis B Information. Retrieved March 16, 2017, from <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hbv/index.htm>

[4] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016, October 04). Perinatal Transmission. Retrieved March 16, 2017, from <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hbv/perinatalexmtn.htm#section1>

[5] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015, October 15). Hepatitis C Information. Retrieved March 16, 2017, from <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv/guidelinesc.htm>