



# Central Michigan District Health Department

Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities



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## PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

**To: Local Media Outlets**  
**From: Central Michigan District Health Department**  
**RE: CMDHD Promoting World Hepatitis Day**  
**Release Date: July 18, 2024**

### CMDHD is promoting World Hepatitis Day - July 28, 2024

*Routine screening for hepatitis C and vaccination for hepatitis A and B are important ways to protect your health.*

Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) is promoting World Hepatitis Day, which raises awareness about viral hepatitis and the steps people can take to prevent and manage this disease. **CMDHD offers vaccines for hepatitis A and B and free hepatitis C screening, testing, and treatment.** For more information or help with scheduling a visit, call CMDHD's Community Health division at 989-314-7570.

According to the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#), hepatitis is a group of viral infections that lead to a range of health problems, such as liver cirrhosis, liver cancer, and liver failure. The three most common types of hepatitis in the United States are hepatitis A, hepatitis B and hepatitis C. Hepatitis A is easily transmitted from person to person. It is an acute infection that usually improves without treatment. Hepatitis B and hepatitis C are chronic infections and can be spread through sex or sharing needles. There is a vaccine to prevent hepatitis A and B. There is no vaccine for hepatitis C. Hepatitis C can be treated, however.

"Our new hepatitis C treatment program reflects our dedication to providing accessible and effective care for those affected by this virus, to improve the health outcomes of our community," said Connie Lance, CMDHD Community Health Supervisor. Those interested in learning more can visit <https://www.cmdhd.org/hepc>, which offers self-referral and provider referral forms for those with a positive hepatitis C diagnosis. CMDHD offers free testing for those who are at risk for hepatitis C. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers hepatitis C testing recommendations at <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis-c/hcp/diagnosis-testing/>.

Viral hepatitis is a global public health threat. About 290 million people worldwide are living with chronic hepatitis B or C. These two infections cause more than 1.4 million deaths per year. WHO has set a goal of ending viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030. Reaching this goal requires increased awareness, prevention,

**Please visit us online at [www.cmdhd.org](http://www.cmdhd.org).**

testing, and treatment. Some of the key steps people can take to prevent hepatitis are getting vaccinated, practicing safe sex, and avoiding sharing needles or other drug paraphernalia.

CMDHD offers free syringe services through Exchange Central, our Syringe Service Program. Through Exchange Central, people can access free HIV and hepatitis C testing, resources and referrals for substance use disorder, training in overdose prevention with Narcan, basic wound care supplies and other sterile equipment, to help decrease the spread of infections like HIV and hepatitis C.

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](http://www.cmdhd.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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*To request an interview, please visit our website ([cmdhd.org](http://cmdhd.org)) and fill out the [Media Interview Request Form](#).*



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