



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Chronic hepatitis B (HBV) affects approximately 350 million people worldwide, and the hepatitis C virus (HCV) affects approximately 170-200 million people; and millions are still living with the burden of stigma associated with these viral infections; and
- WHEREAS: Currently, 1.4 million people live with chronic hepatitis B and 3.5 million people live with chronic hepatitis C in the United States; and
- WHEREAS: HBC and HCV will not present symptoms of infection for many years, often times allowing the virus to manifest into liver disease. Up to 65 to 75 percent of Americans with HBV and HCV are not aware of their diagnosis and subsequently, do not seek treatment; and
- WHEREAS: Barriers to adequate treatment, including high costs for drug treatment regimens, scarcity of hepatitis screening and testing, the necessity for consultation from hepatitis specialists, and reduced cooperation from insurance companies, contribute to the burden of illness and influence the effectiveness and accessibility of treatment; and
- WHEREAS: Hepatitis risk assessments indicate that early detection of hepatitis can be vital in the prevention of acute hepatitis leading to a chronic infection; it also reveals the dangers of being unaware of a hepatic diagnosis; and
- WHEREAS: Studies have found that patients whose treatments began at early stages in their illness have experienced improved quality of life, including vaccines that protect from hepatitis B and new treatment regimens for hepatitis C.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Thursday, May 19, 2016, as:

HEPATITIS TESTING DAY

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 11th day of May.


GOVERNOR


SECRETARY OF STATE