



Mississippi State Department of Health
570 East Woodrow Wilson - Box 1700 - Jackson, MS 39215-1700

MEDIA ADVISORY

May 15, 2018

Department of Health Hosts Health Fair In Recognition of Hepatitis Awareness Month

JACKSON, Miss. – Mississippians born between 1945 and 1965 are five times more likely to be diagnosed with Hepatitis C, a disease that is the leading cause of liver cancer and which can cause serious health problems, including liver damage and cirrhosis.

More than 75 percent of adults with Hepatitis C are baby boomers, and three out of four people diagnosed with the disease never knew they were infected. People in this age range are believed to have become infected in the 1970s and 1980s when rates of Hepatitis C were high and the blood supply for transfusions was not screened for this disease.

May is Hepatitis Awareness Month, and the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) recommends that anyone born from 1945 to 1965 be tested for Hepatitis C, as well as those with a history of injection drug use or anyone who is HIV positive. Talk with your doctor or healthcare provider about testing.

In recognition of Hepatitis Awareness Month, the MSDH will be hosting a health fair on Saturday that will highlight information on Hepatitis C and a variety of health concerns in Mississippi such as diabetes, hypertension, drug and alcohol addiction, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, mental health, and tuberculosis.

**Health Fair
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Thursday, May 17, 2018
Community Room
Jackson Medical Mall**

The health fair is free and open to the public.

For more information on Hepatitis C, visit the MSDH website at HealthyMS.com/hepC.

Follow MSDH by email and social media at HealthyMS.com/connect.

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CONTACT: Office of Communications, 601-576-7667

Note to media: After hours or during emergencies, call 1-866-HLTHY4U (1-866-458-4948)

Online: HealthyMS.com [facebook.com/HealthyMS](https://www.facebook.com/HealthyMS) twitter.com/msdh