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**May 14, 2019**

**News Release**

## **Public Health to Offer Free Hepatitis C Testing**

**EL PASO, Texas** – As part of Hepatitis C Awareness month, the Department of Public Health HIV Prevention Program will offer FREE Hepatitis C testing on Wednesday, May 15 from 8:00 am-11:30 am and from 1:00 pm-8:00 pm at 701 Montana El Paso, Texas 79902.

Hepatitis C is a virus that infects liver cells. About 25% of those who are infected will clear the virus. Seventy-five percent will develop chronic hepatitis C infection which can progress to cirrhosis and end-stage liver disease. Populations at risk for hepatitis C are HIV patients, baby boomers, and individuals who are intravenous drug users.

“People with the highest risk of developing chronic hepatitis C are baby boomer adults born between 1945 and 1965,” said Irene Ovalle, HIV Program Manager. “With 1 in 4 people living with HIV co-infected with hepatitis C, we continually encourage testing to empower people to know their status”.

In addition to testing, the HIV Prevention Program can assist hepatitis C positive individuals with linkage to medical care and treatment. More information about the HIV Program is available at [www.EPHealth.com](http://www.EPHealth.com) under Services, HIV Prevention tab.

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