



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**HEPATITIS AWARENESS MONTH**

**AND**

**HEPATITIS TESTING DAY**

**2021**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, millions of Americans are living with chronic hepatitis, and most are unaware of their infection; viral hepatitis is the leading cause of liver transplants and liver cancer, representing a significant disease burden; and

**WHEREAS**, there is an ongoing outbreak of hepatitis A in North Carolina and nationwide; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019, there were 185 acute cases and 25,463 chronic cases of hepatitis B in North Carolina, as well as 184 acute cases and an estimated more than 150,000 chronic cases of hepatitis C; and

**WHEREAS**, vaccines are available to prevent hepatitis A and B infections, and while there is no vaccine, there is a cure for hepatitis C; and

**WHEREAS**, World Hepatitis Testing Day is observed annually on May 19; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends routine hepatitis C testing for certain groups, including people born between 1945 and 1965 and individuals who currently use intravenous drugs or have ever injected drugs; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina is actively working to promote evidence-based risk reduction strategies, such as syringe service programs, as a method to reduce the spread of hepatitis; and

**WHEREAS**, Hepatitis Awareness Month is an opportunity to recognize efforts to eliminate disease burden and associated health inequities in our state, and to commend the many people working to improve health outcomes by supporting research, patient education, and prevention efforts to stop the spread of viral hepatitis; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina joins the CDC, state and local public health departments, community-based organizations, hospitals, health care providers, and other community, health care, and faith-based organizations in promoting hepatitis awareness and prevention;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May, 2021, as “**HEPATITIS AWARENESS MONTH**” and May 19, 2021, as “**HEPATITIS TESTING DAY**” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



**Roy Cooper**  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-third day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.