



For Immediate Release: May 5, 2017

Contacts:	Catherine Hart, LMSW Chief Operating Officer Tel.: (631) 385-2451	D. Ray Ward, MAOM, CASC, CPP Chief Program Officer Tel.: (631) 385-2451
-----------	---	---

Long Island Association for AIDS Care (LIAAC) recognizes Hepatitis Testing Day.

May is Hepatitis Awareness Month and May 19, 2017 is National Hepatitis Testing Day, an opportunity to shed light on this hidden epidemic by raising awareness of viral hepatitis and encouraging priority populations to get tested. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, those at highest risk for viral hepatitis are: baby boomers (those born between 1945 and 1965); men who have sex with men; Asian and Pacific Islanders; those with HIV/AIDS; and injection drug users.

There are more than three types of Hepatitis. Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C are each caused by a different virus and is spread in different ways. Hepatitis A can range in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a severe illness lasting several months. Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C can become life-long chronic infections. However, there are vaccines that prevent against Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B.

In the U.S., an estimated 2.7 to 3.9 million people are living with chronic HCV infection. Statewide, an estimated 200,000 people are living with HCV infection. It is estimated that up to 75% of persons living with HCV do not know their status. According to the 2013 Communicable Disease Annual Reports from the New York State Department of Health, there were 479 Hepatitis C infections reported in Nassau County and 728 Hepatitis C infections in Suffolk County.

For information about LIAAC events, visit our Facebook events page at <https://www.facebook.com/LIAAC.inc/events>. For more information call our toll free hotline at 1-877-865-4222

SINCE 1986
LONG ISLAND ASSOCIATION FOR AIDS CARE, INC.
GAIL BAROUH, PhD, PRESIDENT/CEO
60 ADAMS AVENUE • HAUPPAUGE, NY 11788
business: (631) 385-2451 • fax: (631) 271-5816 • hotline: 1-877-TO-LIAAC
www.LIAAC.org