World Hepatitis Day, July 28, 2019

“Find the Missing Millions”

World Hepatitis Day is a global call to action to eliminate hepatitis aimed to raise awareness of viral hepatitis. Approximately 290 million people are living with hepatitis B or C and are unaware. The World Hepatitis Alliance 2019 campaign is to “Find the Missing Millions” focusing on screening and access to care.

Hepatitis A, B, and C viruses cause 90% of acute cases of hepatitis in Canada and are reportable to the health department.

**Hepatitis A and B** are vaccine-preventable. **Chronic hepatitis B** infection is treatable. **Hepatitis C** is now considered a curable infection.

Screening for **early diagnosis** and promoting **access to care** are important steps in **reducing the burden** of viral hepatitis. The Canadian Liver Foundation (CLF) is encouraging open discussions with patients regarding possible risk factors for liver disease. In addition, it is recommending **birth cohort screening** be considered for those born **1945-1975**, as this age range has an increased chance of identifying undiagnosed hepatitis C.

Individuals with chronic liver disease may be eligible to receive **free vaccine** for hepatitis A and B. For vaccine Special Release order form visit Resources for Health Care Providers - Region of Durham

For current information on **testing** for hepatitis and **interpretation** of test results refer to Public Health Ontario and Canadian Liver Foundation

Durham Region Health Department: 905-668-7711, 1-800-841-2729

If you prefer to receive this information in an electronic format please submit your request to healthresources@durham.ca

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.