



Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



World Hepatitis Day – July 28, 2026 “Hepatitis: Let’s Break it Down”

World Hepatitis Day is observed annually on July 28 to raise awareness of viral hepatitis, a liver disease that can lead to serious illness and liver cancer. This year’s theme, “Hepatitis: Let’s break it down” focuses on removing barriers to hepatitis elimination.

Did you know...

- Each year, chronic viral hepatitis causes 1.3 million deaths globally and nearly 1.8 million new cases.
- Most people with viral hepatitis are unaware they are infected.
 - **Hepatitis A:** Consider testing patients with compatible symptoms or a known exposure to hepatitis A.
 - **Hepatitis B:** Consider screening patients based on risk factors, exposure history, and pregnancy status (i.e., pre-natal screening, occupational and other risk exposures), and testing patients with compatible symptoms.
 - **Hepatitis C:** Consider screening patients based on risk factors and exposure history (i.e., injection/inhalation drug use, occupational and other risk exposures), and testing patients with compatible symptoms
- In 2025, Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) reported 72 chronic hepatitis B carriers, 13 acute hepatitis B cases, 79 hepatitis C cases, and 5 hepatitis A cases.
- Hepatitis A and B are vaccine preventable. Chronic hepatitis B infection is treatable. Hepatitis C is curable with antiviral treatment.
- Hepatitis B vaccine is publicly funded and offered to eligible grade 7 and 8 students through [DRHD school immunization clinics](#).

Resources

- High-risk individuals may be eligible to receive publicly funded vaccines for hepatitis A and B. For more information and for the vaccine Special Release order forms, visit [Health Care Providers - Region of Durham](#) (or [durham.ca/hcp](#) > Forms > Order).
- For current information on **screening, testing and interpretation** of test results, refer to [Public Health Ontario](#) and [Public Health Agency of Canada](#).

July 28, 2026

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | [durham.ca/health](#)

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

