



**SAGINAW COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**
protecting and promoting the public's health since 1928

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Tawnya Simon, R.N., B.S.N., M.S.A.
TITLE: Personal and Preventive Health Services Director
PHONE: (989) 758-3667
FAX: (989) 758-3859
EMAIL: tsimon@saginawcounty.com

**SAGINAW COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH RECOGNIZES
HEPATITIS AWARENESS MONTH**

The month of May is designated as Hepatitis Awareness Month. During May, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Saginaw County Department of Public Health want to shed light on this hidden epidemic by raising awareness about viral hepatitis.

In the United States, the most common types of viral hepatitis are Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C. There are more than 4 million Americans living with chronic hepatitis; most do not know they are infected. Viral hepatitis is a leading cause of liver cancer and liver transplants. People with Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C have the greatest risk of liver cancer. Hepatitis B is 50-100 times more infectious than HIV. Also, there are approximately 3,500 new Hepatitis A infections each year.

While each hepatitis virus has similar symptoms, each virus affects the liver differently, has different routes of transmission, and has different populations that are most commonly affected. Hepatitis A and B can both be prevented with vaccines. The Hepatitis A vaccine is recommended for all children at one year of age and for adults who may be at increased risk. The Hepatitis B vaccine is recommended for all infants at birth and adults who may be at risk.

The Saginaw County Department of Public Health offers Hepatitis A and B vaccine. For more information on the vaccines and clinic locations, call 989-758-3840 or visit our website at www.saginawpublichealth.org. Be Wise. Be Well.

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