

# SHOULD YOU GET TESTED FOR HEPATITIS C?



Hepatitis C (HCV) is a virus that attacks the liver and can cause liver scarring and liver cancer if left untreated.



Many people don't know they're infected because they don't feel or look sick, but they can pass the virus to others.



If you have hepatitis C, there is a safe and effective treatment to cure hepatitis C in as little as 8 weeks.

## HEPATITIS C MAY BE SPREAD FROM:



Sharing needles, syringes, and other injection equipment, as well as sharing glass pipes with cracked edges and equipment used for snorting drugs.



Sharing razors, toothbrushes, or nail clippers.



Sexual activity that may cause bleeding, including increased risk from anal sex.



Tattooing, permanent makeup, or piercing in an unlicensed facility.



Pregnant person to baby during pregnancy and birth.



Contact with blood from a person who has hepatitis C.

## HEPATITIS C IS NOT SPREAD BY:



Sharing food or eating utensils.



Hugging, kissing, or holding hands.



Breastmilk or breast/chest feeding

## WHO SHOULD GET TESTED?

You should get tested for hepatitis C if you:

- Are age 18 and older (get tested once in your lifetime).
- Are pregnant (get tested during each pregnancy).
- Currently inject drugs (get tested at least once a year).
- Have ever injected drugs, even just once.
- Have gotten a tattoo or piercing outside of a licensed facility.
- Have HIV.
- Received donated blood or organs before July 1992.
- Were born to a parent who had hepatitis C while pregnant.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HEPATITIS C TESTING, VISIT:**  
[www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hcv) or [www.doh.wa.gov/hepChub](http://www.doh.wa.gov/hepChub)