

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** millions of Americans are impacted by the hepatitis A virus (HAV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), and hepatitis C virus (HCV), which cause infection to the liver; and
- Whereas,** in West Virginia, 8,876 new cases of acute and chronic HVC, and 405 new cases of acute and chronic HBV cases are identified; and
- Whereas,** an estimated 600 infants are born to HCV positive pregnant persons per year in West Virginia and those who contract the virus can be cured at age three to prevent future liver disease; and
- Whereas,** more than half of people living with viral hepatitis are unaware they are infected, thereby increasing their risk for severe health problems such as cirrhosis, liver cancer, liver transplant, and death; and
- Whereas,** with immunizations, access to prevention services, and early detection, hepatitis A, B, and C can be prevented, hepatitis B can be treated, and hepatitis C can be cured, saving lives; and
- Whereas,** the current epidemic of opioid and other substance use in the state is increasing transmission of these viruses that are spread through blood, primarily intravenous, inclusive of intranasal drug use; and
- Whereas,** the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends all individuals over the age of 18 and pregnant women be screened for hepatitis C virus, at-risk populations and all people born in regions of the world where HBV is common be screened for hepatitis B virus, and routine vaccination against hepatitis A and B; and
- Whereas,** CDC recommends education of the public and professionals on hepatitis prevention, testing, and treatment, treatment of all persons living with chronic hepatitis, and the development of systems to conduct viral hepatitis surveillance.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *May 2024* as:

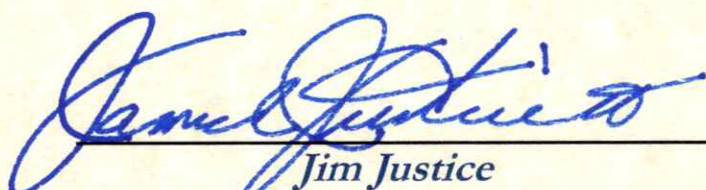
Hepatitis Awareness Month

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to celebrate and promote the arts and culture in the Mountain State.


In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Twenty-Sixth Day of February, in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four and in the One Hundred Sixty-First Year of the State.




Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:


Mac Warner
Secretary of State