

WHEREAS; millions of Americans are affected by the hepatitis A virus (HAV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), and hepatitis C virus (HCV), which cause infection to the liver; and

WHEREAS; according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, more than half of all people living with hepatitis are unaware they have it due in large part to a lack of access to preventative care, primary care, and routine screening, thereby increasing their risk for life-threatening liver disease, cancer, and unknowingly transmitting the virus to others; and

WHEREAS; practicing and accessing harm reduction strategies and services can be a successful means of preventing disease, and thanks to critical advancements in science and medicine, vaccines are available for the prevention of HAV and HBV, treatments are available for HBV and HCV, and while the body will most often naturally recover from HAV, treatments for HCV can ultimately lead to a cure; and

WHEREAS; the ongoing epidemic of opioid and other substance use in the state and across the country is contributing to the increased transmission of these viruses, which can spread through contact with infected blood, and the highest rates of new diseases are occurring among Black, Hispanic, and Native American populations, exacerbating existing inequities in health and health outcomes; and

WHEREAS; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that everyone over the age of 18 receive a screening for HBV and HCV at least once, that pregnant individuals be screened for HBV and HCV during each pregnancy, and that the most at-risk populations be screened for HBV and HCV periodically, in addition to routine vaccination against HAV and HBV for all; and

WHEREAS; on this occasion, the state of Wisconsin joins its state, local, and federal partners, along with dedicated organizations, healthcare professionals, and advocates in raising awareness of hepatitis inequities, prevention, testing, and treatment and in advocating for viral hepatitis surveillance and the treatment of all persons living with chronic hepatitis;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim May 2024 as

## **HEPATITIS AWARENESS MONTH**

and May 19 2024 as

## **HEPATITIS TESTING DAY**

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May 2024.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State