

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; more than half of all people living with viral hepatitis are unaware they have it, thereby increasing their risk for cirrhosis, liver cancer, the need for a liver transplant, and death; 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 our state and across our country is contributing to the increased transmission of these viruses, which can spread through contact with infected blood, including through intravenous drug use; and

WHEREAS; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that everyone over the age of 18 receive a one-time screening, that pregnant individuals be screened for HCV during each pregnancy, and that at-risk populations and all people born in regions of the world where HBV is common be screened, as well as routine vaccination against HAV and HBV for all; and

WHEREAS; on this occasion, the state of Wisconsin joins the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the CDC in raising awareness of hepatitis 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 2022 as

HEPATITIS AWARENESS MONTH

and May 19 2022 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 13th day of May 2022.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State