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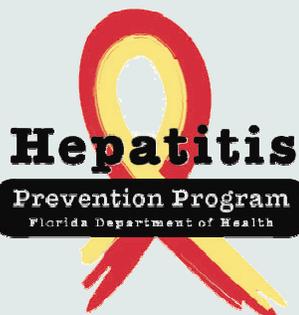
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# Hepatitis Health

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## First National Hepatitis Testing Day

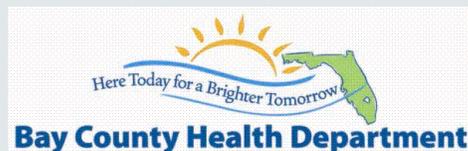
By April Crowley

May 19, 2012, was the **first** National Hepatitis Testing Day. It was a day for people at risk to be tested and for health care providers to educate patients about chronic viral hepatitis. Hepatitis Testing Day is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) *Know More Hepatitis* educational campaign initiative.

The following are some of the events that took place around the state recognizing this important observance.

### Bay County

By Laura McKinney, HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator  
(HAPC), Bay CHD



On Friday, May 18, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., Bay County Health Department (CHD) provided free hepatitis testing, vaccines and educational materials. Also offered were games for children and a quiz about hepatitis C (HCV) for adults. The weather was great, since the event was held outdoors at the health department under a covered walkway decorated with banners and balloons.



Elvis Brown, Bay CHD Health Educator, with the Hepatitis Prevention Program Display.

Pam Langford, HEALS of the South, drove from Tallahassee to participate.

Laura McKinney, HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator.

## Broward County

By: Vanice Rolle, Hepatitis Program Manager, Broward CHD

In recognition of National Hispanic Hepatitis Awareness Day and Hepatitis Testing Day, the Broward County Health Department and community partners provided hepatitis screening at Sedano's Supermarket in Hollywood May 18<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. In addition to hepatitis, HIV and syphilis screening were also offered. Hepatitis information was provided to approximately 200 individuals that day.



L to R: Vanice Rolle and Sandra Mosley



## Collier County

By Isidra Gomes, Health Services Supervisor, Collier CHD

May was full of activity at Collier CHD in observance of Hepatitis Awareness Month, National Hepatitis Testing Day and Hispanic Hepatitis Awareness Day, with free testing events at our Naples and Immokalee locations.

In May, 56 people were tested for hepatitis and 50 doses of hepatitis vaccines were provided. Flyers were distributed in the community to encourage participation in the health fair on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Media coverage helped to raise awareness about viral hepatitis. An article appeared in the Naples News-Press on May 18<sup>th</sup>. On May 20<sup>th</sup>, hepatitis was the topic featured on "Regain Body Wisdom," a radio program that airs Sunday mornings from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. on WGUF.

## Lake County

By Shawn Clifford, RN, Lake CHD

The Lake County Health Department offered free testing on Friday, May 18th, from 9:00 a.m. until noon at the Eustis Health Center. Participants learned about the different types of viral hepatitis and risk factors associated with the disease. Work was completed with our immunization program for clients to receive HAV and HBV vaccines. We were excited about this outreach and educational opportunity and hope to do more in the future.

An article about National Hepatitis Testing Day on our event ran in the *Orlando Sentinel* the day before on Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, which helped to promote activities to the public.





Lori Theisen

## Orange County

By Lori Theisen, RN, BSN, Orange CHD

In Orange County, free hepatitis testing and vaccines were offered at our Central Clinic Friday, May 18th. A press release was issued and a proclamation was signed by Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs.



Miami-Dade County  
**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
[www.dadehealth.org](http://www.dadehealth.org)

## Miami-Dade County

Marie K. Etienne, RN, MPH, Miami-Dade CHD

At the downtown clinic people are tested on a daily basis and provided outreach activities in the community.

- May 15: Vaccination campaign at the Women's Detention Center
- May 16: Vaccination campaign at Fellowship House (drug rehab center)
- May 17: Vaccination at the Homeless Assistance Center (HAC)



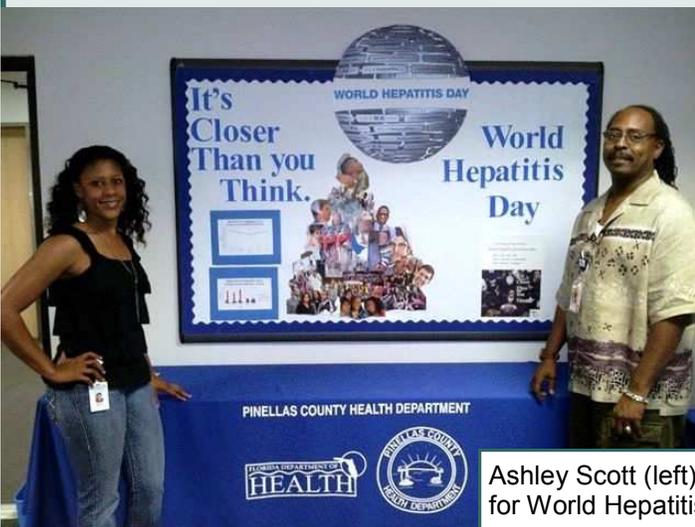
Marie Etienne

During the same week, testing and vaccination were offered at the PET (Prevention, Education and Treatment) Center for one day in collaboration with STD and HIV partners. Testing will continue to be offered at this site on a weekly basis.

The PET Health Center, operated by Jackson Health System and the Miami-Dade County Health Department, is committed to the well-being and health of its community. Their mission is to provide prevention, education and treatment of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases to the infected/affected population of Miami-Dade.

## Pinellas County

By Dante Ross, Hepatitis Health Educator, Pinellas CHD



To mark National Hepatitis Testing Day on Friday, May 18, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., the Pinellas County Health Department offered free testing for hepatitis A, B and C at six of the health centers. These locations included St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Pinellas Park, Largo, Mid-County and Tarpon Springs.

Tote bags were distributed with the message, "Get Tested for Hepatitis, HIV, STD and TB."



Ashley Scott (left) & Dante Ross are gearing up for World Hepatitis Day on July 28th.

# Division of Disease Control

# National Hispanic Hepatitis Awareness Day

## Let's Talk about Hepatitis

By Enid Santiago, Hepatitis Prevention Program Coordinator

On Saturday, May 19th, Seminole County Health Department not only honored National Hepatitis Testing Day, but also National Hispanic Hepatitis Awareness Day (which was observed on May 15th). Several central Florida health organizations joined forces, including Café Latino Coalition, to commemorate this historic day by holding a huge health fair at Harvest Time International in Sanford.

Free testing and screening for hepatitis, HIV, glucose, blood pressure, BMI, and STDs were offered to all at-risk adults. Health education and resource information was provided. Additionally, hepatitis vaccines were offered to all eligible adults.

One of the highlights of the day was when Commissioner Bob Cortes of Longwood presented a proclamation from Sanford City Mayor Jeff Triplett.



Commissioner Cortes with Tai Johnson.



L to R: Tai Johnson, Milagros Cooper, Enid Santiago, Donna Walsh, Ana Roman and Jesus Roman.



L to R: Patricia Aquila, Milagros, Tai and Enid with the KQ103 radio staff.



EPI nurse Peggy Booth who never says "no" to helping out.



## Welcome, Donna Wheeler

Donna Wheeler joined the Hepatitis Prevention Program staff in May as the new field services coordinator. She worked as a financial analyst for Raytheon, Inc., in Tampa Bay several years ago and has been in the public health arena for 19 years. Donna served in the Correctional Medical Authority, the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Department of Health, Division of Information Technology, and for the past seven years, in the Office of the Surgeon General for the Florida Department of Health. Donna has a background working with federal and state government processes; protocols; data collection and analysis; and reporting.



Cyndena (Dena) Hall will work with Donna over the next several months to familiarize her with the processes associated with the Hepatitis 09 Program (including vaccine ordering and accountability, quarterly reports from the funded CHDs and lab and testing issues). Until further notice, CHDs may continue to direct inquiries about adult hepatitis vaccine, testing and other 09 issues to Dena.

Donna's e-mail is: [donna\\_wheeler@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:donna_wheeler@doh.state.fl.us). Her phone number is: 850-245-4444 x 2430. Please welcome Donna as part of our hepatitis prevention family.

## 2012 Gay Days Expo

By Lori Theisen, RN, BSN, Orange CHD

On May 31<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>, Orange County Health Department staff offered hepatitis A, B and combination A/B vaccines at the 2012 Gay Days Expo. Of the 94 adult vaccines provided at this event, 28 were follow-up doses, including 21 vaccine completions (22%)! Many other Expo attendees were educated about hepatitis. This annual event is an excellent opportunity to provide public health services to an at-risk population.



Standing left to right: Angel Aiken, Tara McHugh, Rosarito Rivera and Lori Theisen.  
Sitting: Renissa Grady and Charlene McCarthy.

## Division of Disease Control

## FPHA Meeting in Ft. Lauderdale: Resounding Success

By Phil Reichert

The Florida Public Health Association (FPHA) regional meeting in Ft. Lauderdale on April 27 and 28, 2012, drew public and private health care participants from more than twelve counties in Central and South Florida. More than 180 registrants attended the meeting and twenty-eight exhibitors displayed their products and programs.

The meeting, sponsored by the FPHA, the Broward County Medical Association, the Area Health Education Centers and the Florida Association of Public Health Nurses and hosted by the Broward County Health Department, provided continuing education presentations in childhood immunizations and viral hepatitis for nurses, doctors and other healthcare workers.

Welcome and announcements were provided by Jeffrey Keiser, President of the FPHA and Dr. Paula Thaqui, Director of the Broward County Health Department. Dr. Kutty Chandran, President of the Broward County Medical Association, opened the meeting.

Viral hepatitis presentations included, "The A, B, C's of Hepatitis Lab Interpretation," "HIV and Hepatitis C Co-Infections – Challenges in Management" and "Hepatitis C Virus Infection in the 1945-1965 Birth Cohort: Implications for Public Health Policy."

Guest speakers included Geoff Beckett, the Prevention Branch Chief at the CDC Division of Viral Hepatitis; Dr. Dushyantha Jayaweera, Professor of Clinical Medicine at the University of Miami School of Medicine; and Dr. Mitchell Davis, a gastroenterologist from the South Florida Center of Gastroenterology in Palm Beach County.

For a recap of the agenda, with topics and speakers from the conference, go to:

<http://fpha.org/meetings.html>



Phil Reichert



Dr. Dushyantha Jayaweera



Dr. Paula Thaqui



Mr. Jeffrey Keiser

**Hepatitis Health** is brought to you by the Hepatitis Prevention Program, Division of Disease Control, at the Florida Department of Health. Submit your articles and photos to: [April\\_Crowley@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:April_Crowley@doh.state.fl.us)

# Transporting Refrigerated Vaccine

## Guidelines for vaccine transport and short-term storage

- The procedure below for packing vaccine will keep all vaccines (except varicella vaccine) within recommended temperatures for 12 hours during transport and/or storage at room temperatures (inside a car, building, etc.). It will also maintain recommended temperatures if the cooler is exposed to outside temperatures as low as -4°F for one of those 12 hours.
- If the vaccine will be stored in refrigerators after transport, be sure those refrigerators have maintained temperatures between 35°F and 46°F for at least 3 to 5 days.

### Assemble packing supplies

1. **Cooler.** Use hard plastic Igloo-type coolers. Attach a "Vaccines: Do Not Freeze" label to the cooler.
2. **"Conditioned" cold packs.** Condition frozen gel packs by leaving them at room temperature for 1 to 2 hours until the edges have defrosted and packs look like they've been "sweating." Cold packs that are not conditioned can freeze vaccine. **Do not use dry ice.**
3. **Thermometer.** Prepare the thermometer by placing it in the refrigerator at least 2 hours before you pack the vaccine.
4. **Packing material.** Use two 2-inch layers of bubble wrap. Not using enough bubble wrap can cause the vaccine to freeze.



## Pack vaccine

### 1. Cold packs

Spread conditioned cold packs to cover only half of the bottom of the cooler.



### 2. Bubble wrap

#### & Thermometer

Completely cover the cold packs with a 2-inch layer of bubble wrap. Then, place the thermometer/probe on top of the bubble wrap directly above a cold pack.



### 3. Vaccine

Stack layers of vaccine boxes on the bubble wrap. Do not let the boxes of vaccine touch the cold packs.



### 4. Bubble wrap

Completely cover the vaccine with another 2-inch layer of bubble wrap.



### 5. Cold packs

Spread "conditioned" cold packs to cover only half of the bubble wrap. Make sure that the cold packs do not touch the boxes of vaccine.



### 6. Form & display

Fill the cooler to the top with bubble wrap. Place the thermometer's digital display and the Return or Transfer of Vaccines Report form on top. It's ok if temperatures go above 46°F while packing.



**As soon as you reach the destination site, check the vaccine temperature. If the vaccine is:**

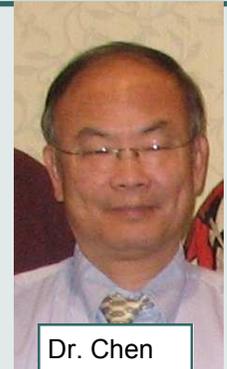
- Between 35°F and 46°F, put it in the refrigerator.
- Below 35°F or above 46°F, contact your VFC Rep or the VFC program immediately at 1-877-243-8832. For H1N1 vaccine, call 1-888-867-6319. Then label the vaccine "Do Not Use" and put it in the refrigerator.

[www.eziz.org](http://www.eziz.org)

## Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month

In recognition of May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, the Hepatitis Prevention Program and the Office of Minority Health co-hosted a statewide webinar presentation on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

W. William Chen, Ph.D., MCHES, presented on the topic of hepatitis B and liver cancer among Asian Americans. Dr. Chen is a professor in the University of Florida's Department of Health Education and Behavior. He also serves on the Florida Viral Hepatitis Council and is one of the original members.



Dr. Chen

## World Hepatitis Day

The World Hepatitis Alliance is planning a Guinness World Record attempt to celebrate World Hepatitis Day 2012 (Saturday, July 28) by having the most people performing the "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil" actions in 24 hours at multiple venues around the world.

These actions relate to the proverb known as the three wise monkeys covering their eyes, ears and mouth. There are many meanings attached to the proverb, but mostly it is used to refer to those who deal with problems by refusing to acknowledge them. This theme has been chosen to highlight that, around the world, hepatitis is being ignored. For more details, visit:

<http://www.worldhepatitisalliance.org/WorldHepatitisDay>



Don't ignore it. Hepatitis is a potentially fatal disease that affects 1 in 12 people worldwide, but there are rarely obvious symptoms.

**This is hepatitis...**  
**Know it. Confront it. Get tested.**

World Hepatitis Day: 28 July  
[www.worldhepatitisday.info](http://www.worldhepatitisday.info)



### Hepatitis C Helpline

**877-HELP- 4-HEP**



The Support Partnership, a collaboration of nationally recognized nonprofits, has launched a peer-managed toll-free helpline for people affected by hepatitis C.

Experienced counselors provide information, support, and care linkage to help callers navigate the complexities of screening, diagnosis, health management and treatment.

Please refer your clients/patients directly to the helpline: **877-HELP-4-HEP (877-435-7443)**.

To learn about The Support Partnership or **order palm cards and posters**, visit [www.help4hep.org](http://www.help4hep.org).