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Long Island Association for AIDS Care (LIAAC) recognizes Hepatitis Testing Day.

May is Hepatitis Awareness Month and May 19, 2016 is National Hepatitis Testing Day, an opportunity to remind both health care providers and the public who should be tested for viral hepatitis. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, those at highest risk for viral hepatitis are: baby boomers (those born between 1945 and 1965); men who have sex with men; Asian and Pacific Islanders; those with HIV/AIDS; and injection drug users.

While there are three types of hepatitis, each type is caused by a different virus and is spread in different ways. Hepatitis A does not cause long-term infection, but can cause serious illness. Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C can become life-long chronic infections. However, there are vaccines that prevent against Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than five million Americans are living with chronic hepatitis in the United States, but most do not know they are infected. As reported in 2013 by the New York State Department of Health, there were 35.5 Hepatitis C infections per 100,000 population in Nassau County and 48.6 Hepatitis C infections per 100,000 population in Suffolk County.

For information about LIAAC events, visit our Facebook events page at <https://www.facebook.com/LIAAC.inc/events>. For more information call our toll free hotline at 1-877-865-4222

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