

Hepatitis C Virus

What is it?

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) is a viral infection that spreads from infected blood and can severely hurt the liver. HCV affects millions of people, with many being unaware of their infection, and although there is no vaccine for prevention, there is a **CURE**.



How many people have HCV?

HCV is the **most common** blood-borne infection. **3-5 million** people have HCV in the US. Over **400,000** people in Texas have HCV.



How do I know if I have it?

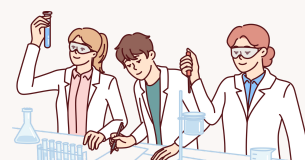
Most people **don't know** they have HCV until they **develop liver failure or cancer**.



Who should get tested for HCV?

All **adults aged 18 years or older** should get tested at least once. **Risk factors include:**

- Injection drug use (even once)
- Needle stick injury at work
- Blood transfusion before 1992
- Baby of a mother with HCV



How do I get tested?

Ask your doctor for the **HCV antibody test**. It is not done with regular blood tests. If the HCV antibody test is positive, a second test called the **HCV RNA test** is needed to check if you are still currently infected.



Is there a cure?

HCV can be **CURED!** Today's treatments can cure HCV with only **8-12 weeks** of daily pills with little to no side-effects.



What else do I need to know?

Several things can hurt the liver:

- **Alcohol:** even small amounts are bad in persons with HCV.
- **Obesity & Diabetes:** eating healthier foods and exercising can help your liver.
- **Certain types of pills:** check with your doctor.

Infected with HCV? Screening and treatment options are available through health insurance, free medication assistance programs, and county-healthcare assistance programs.

Learn more at www.StopHepatitisC.com

