

# World Hepatitis Day

## July 28, 2015

“Worldwide 400 million people are living with hepatitis B or C. Every year 1.4 million people die from viral hepatitis and yet all of these deaths could be prevented. With better awareness and understanding of how we can prevent hepatitis, we can eliminate this disease and save 4,000 lives a day” – World Health Organization

In 2010, the World Health Organization made World Hepatitis Day one of only 4 official disease-specific world health days, to be celebrated each year on the 28th July. Millions of people across the world now take part in World Hepatitis Day, to raise awareness about viral hepatitis.

Some of the most common occupations with the potential of exposure to viral hepatitis are

- Healthcare workers
- Researchers working with human blood, cells, body fluids, and tissues
- Custodial/Janitorial Workers
- Ambulatory care workers

### What can you do?

If your job puts you at risk of potential exposure, here are some important tips:

- Educate yourself and know the risks
  - Hepatitis Facts (A-E): <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/>
- Get vaccinated
  - Hepatitis B Vaccination: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/hep-b.html>
- Protect yourself through safe work practices
  - Complete the required safety training
  - Use the proper personal protective equipment
  - Be careful when working with sharps and needles

For more information on World Hepatitis Day and how you can help prevent hepatitis, visit the official website at <http://worldhepatitisday.org/>

For more information on what steps to take to protect yourself from occupational viral hepatitis exposure, visit the FIU EH&S Blood Borne Pathogens webpage at: <http://ehs.fiu.edu/Programs/BioSafety/Pages/Bloodborne-Pathogens.aspx> and click on the FIU Exposure Control Plan.

Please visit the FIU EH&S website at <http://ehs.fiu.edu> for more safety information, or to report a safety concern.