

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS**  
State Surgeon General & Secretary

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

## **BABY BOOMERS AND HEPATITIS C TESTING**

The Florida Department of Health in Collier County with the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**, calling hepatitis C an "unrecognized health crisis," last August advised that everyone born between 1945 and 1965 should have a one-time HEP C antibody blood test regardless of their present health or past lifestyle. Boomers are particularly vulnerable, the CDC said, because **they came of age when American culture embraced sexual freedom and drug use**, and the absence of widespread blood supply testing until 1992. The virus is passed by blood-to-blood contact, most commonly by sharing needles. But people who received tainted blood supplies years ago, had tattoos or piercings done with unsterile needles, could end up with **hepatitis C**.

**Persons who are at high risk for Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection include those who:**

- Ever injected drugs, including those who injected once or a few times many years ago
- Have certain medical conditions, including persons :
  - who received clotting factor concentrates produced before 1987
  - who were ever on long-term hemodialysis
  - with persistently abnormal alanine aminotransferase levels (ALT)
- Were prior recipients of transfusions or organ transplants, including persons who:
  - were notified that they received blood from a donor who later tested positive for HCV infection
  - received a transfusion of blood, blood components or an organ transplant before July 1992

**If you want to get tested for hepatitis C, we recommend you visit your primary care physician for testing options and optimum continuity of care should you test positive. If you don't have a primary care physician please contact the Florida Department of Health in Collier County at 239-252-5303 for further information on testing options and referrals.**