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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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**PROCLAMATION**

Hepatitis is a serious liver disease that spreads easily and can be difficult to detect. Fortunately, there are vaccines available for hepatitis A and B and there are effective treatments available for hepatitis C. By educating ourselves about the risks and symptoms, we can work to reduce the number of infected Californians.

As is the case with many other diseases, our first line of defense is prevention. Since many individuals may not know that they are carrying the disease, it is important that each of us take precautions to avoid spreading viruses. By washing our hands, fully cooking food and avoiding possibly contaminated water, we can protect ourselves and others against exposure.

For those who feel they may have become infected, it is important that they be checked as soon as possible. There are many treatments for hepatitis, but the effects of the disease can be permanently damaging if not treated early. While it is important to vaccinate newborns, adults who have not been vaccinated in a number of years may also need to receive vaccinations.

Hepatitis can affect all segments of society, regardless of age, sex, race or class, and I encourage all Californians to take action to prevent spreading this disease.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER**, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim May 19, 2008, as "Hepatitis Awareness Day."

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 28th day of April 2008.



Handwritten signature of Arnold Schwarzenegger in black ink.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

Handwritten signature of Debra Bowen in black ink.

DEBRA BOWEN  
Secretary of State