



Department of Health & Human Services

ACL News & Info

Administration for Community Living

For seniors and people with disabilities

Tuesday, May 29, 2012

2012 Older Americans Month: *Never Too Old to Play.*
For more information and downloadable materials, go to
www.olderamericansmonth.aoa.gov

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CDC Seeks Public Comment on Draft Recommendations for One-Time Hepatitis C Testing for Baby Boomers - Deadline Is June 8th

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released draft recommendations proposing that all baby boomers (Americans born from 1945 through 1965) get a one-time test for the hepatitis C virus. In the United States, hepatitis C is the leading cause of liver transplants and liver cancer, which is the fastest-rising cause of cancer-related deaths in the nation. More than 2 million baby boomers are infected with hepatitis C, accounting for more than 75 percent of all American adults living with the virus. Baby boomers are five times more likely to be infected than other adults. Most of them, though, do not know that they have the virus because hepatitis C can damage the liver for many years without noticeable symptoms. More than 15,000 Americans—mostly baby boomers—die each year from hepatitis C-related illness, such as cirrhosis and liver cancer, and deaths have been increasing steadily for over a decade.

A blood test is the only way to identify these silent infections. The CDC estimates one-time hepatitis C testing of baby boomers could identify more than 800,000 additional people with hepatitis C and save more than 120,000 lives. It believes the expanded screening efforts are needed to increase the proportion of persons with hepatitis C who are diagnosed, and referred to care to slow or halt progression of the disease and avoid transmission to others.

New treatments are now available that can cure up to 75 per cent of infections, and even more promising treatments are expected in the near future.

CDC's current public health recommendations focus on testing only individuals with known hepatitis C risk factors. The draft expanded recommendations were developed by a working group including experts from CDC and other

federal agencies, professional associations, community and advocacy groups, and local and state health departments. They are available for review at [Federal Register Notice](#)

Written comments must be received on or before June 8, 2012. You may submit comments, identified by Docket No. CDC-2012-0005, by any of the following methods:

Internet:

Access the Federal eRulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>
Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

Mail:

Division of Viral Hepatitis
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road, NE., Mailstop G-37
Atlanta, GA 30333.

Notes:

- All submissions received must include the agency name and docket number for this notice.
- All relevant comments will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov> including any personal information provided.
- Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, Docket No. CDC-2012-0005.

For further information contact Rebecca Morgan at 404-718-8596 or by email to HCV_BC@cdc.gov

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Chronic Disease Self-Management Program Exceeds Its Goal

75,000 older adults complete the program in two years

Culminating two years of hard work, states and their community-based partners throughout the country have far surpassed their goal of having 50,000 individuals complete the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP) by March 2012.

In March 2010, the US Administration on Aging (AoA) awarded \$27 million in funding via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), allowing grantees from 45 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia to provide self-management programs to older adults with chronic diseases. AoA and their grantees, with technical assistance support from the National Council on Aging (NCOA), planned to serve at least 50,000 older adults and gather evidence on the impact of the program on the health behavior and status of participants. Two years later, the program has had over 100,000 participants and over 75,000 completers. Completers are defined as individuals who attend at least four of the workshop's six sessions.

The Stanford University Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP) emphasizes the individual's role in managing his or her health and builds self-confidence, so people can be successful in adopting long-term healthy behaviors.

Over 8,600 workshops have been hosted at nearly 5,500 unique implementation sites. About 75% of CDSMP participants are over age 60, nearly 47% live alone, and more than 60% have two or more chronic health conditions. CDSMP workshops are designed to give people with chronic conditions (such as arthritis, heart disease, diabetes, emphysema, asthma, bronchitis, and osteoporosis) and/or their caregivers the knowledge and skills needed to take a more active role in managing their health. Participants learn healthier ways to live, gain confidence and motivation to make healthy choices, and feel more positive about life. The six-week workshop meets once a week for 2½ hours.

Throughout the program period, many participants have shared, in their own words, stories of the value added to their quality of life by participating in CDSMP. To read some of the testimonials and first-hand accounts of the benefits of CDSMP, click on the links below.

[Read](#) what Robert Robinson, founder of the Broadway Heights Community Council in San Diego, California and others have to say about the benefits of participating in CDSMP activities.

Having a chronic condition can make life a challenge. CDSMP tools offer hope. After a stroke, Jose took a workshop where he learned to eat well, manage his medicine, and talk to his doctors. [Read Jose's story](#)

“The six-week course exposed me to new ways of thinking about myself and the medical problems that affected my life.” [Read Laura's story](#)

“I learned to use tools such as brainstorming, problem-solving and action plans to deal with the pain, fatigue, shortness of breath, and anxiety.” [Read Kathy’s story](#)

Randy has had asthma since the age of 9. Mitzi has been disabled for 20 years with chronic fatigue. [Read Randy and Mitzi’s story](#)

To find a Chronic Disease Self-Management Program workshop near you, visit <http://www.restartliving.org/findAWorkshjop.php>

To learn more about the Chronic Disease Self-management Program grantees, visit http://www.aoa.gov/AoAroot/PRESS_Room/News/2009/03_18_09.aspx

To learn more about the Communities Putting Prevention to Work Initiative, visit <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/programs/cppw/factsheet.html>

To learn more about the HHS Implementation of Recovery Act funding, visit <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery>

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CMS Propose Rules on Home and Community-Based Services

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced proposed rules implementing State plan home and community-based services under Section 1915(i) of the Social Security Act. The proposed regulations are available [online](#).

The deadline for submitting comments on the proposed rules is July 2, 2012. Once the comments are reviewed, CMS will likely issue a final regulation which means that this is the only chance to influence this important regulation. Of particular interest to CMS is feedback from the people who will be impacted most by these regulations – older adults and people with disabilities who use Medicaid-funded services and supports in the community.

More information about the rulemaking process can also be found [online](#).

Stakeholders may submit comments via [Regulations.gov](#) or in writing to CMS at the following address:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
Attention: CMS-2249-P2

P.O. Box 8016
Baltimore, MD 21244-8016

HHS Launches National Campaign to Educate Older Adults on Registering As Organ Donors

People in their 50s, 60s, 70s, and beyond can save lives by becoming donors

An effort to educate adults 50 and older about the importance of registering to be organ, eye and tissue donors was launched last week in observance of Older Americans Month. The campaign was developed by the HHS Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), in partnership with the Administration for Community Living's Administration on Aging and the National Institutes of Health's National Institute on Aging.

More than 114,000 people are on the national transplant waiting list for an organ, and more than 100 of them die each week waiting for an organ that never comes. In 2011, people 50 and older accounted for 32 percent of donors but 60 percent of the total number of transplants.

To learn more about the campaign, visit www.organdonor.gov and click on the 50+ campaign button. You can also continue the conversation on Facebook at www.facebook.com/organdonor.gov

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Funding Opportunity

Funding Opportunity Reminders

Seeking Proposals for Promising Innovations

[Kendal Charitable Funds](#) is seeking proposals for promising innovations that will transform the experience of aging. Established in 1989, the organization raises and disburses funds in support of the charitable purposes of the [Kendal Corporation](#) and its affiliates, a system of not-for-profit communities, programs, and services for older adults.

Letters of Inquiry are due by June 15, and full applications by August 1. Complete details can be found on the Kendal Charitable Funds Web site: <http://www.kendalcharitablefunds.org>

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HUD Makes Available \$85 Million to Fund Housing for Extremely Low-Income Persons with Disabilities

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recently announced the availability of \$85 million to state housing agencies to provide affordable supportive housing for extremely low-income persons with disabilities.

The application deadline is July 31, 2012. To learn more and to download the application package, go to www.grants.gov. The Funding Opportunity Number is FR-5600-N-28.

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Stay Informed

Next Health Care Conference Call

The HHS Partnership Center continues to host a series of interactive conference calls discussing the benefits and provisions of the health care law, the Affordable Care Act.

All calls are open to the public and include a question and answer session where you can ask HHS staff any questions you may have about the health care reform law. You are also encouraged to submit questions you would like to have answered on the calls to ACA101@hhs.gov

To participate in the next conference call, please click on the link below and submit the necessary information. Call-in information will be made available 24 hours in advance.

[May 30th at 2:00 pm ET](#) – **The Health Care Law and Home and Community-Based Services**

A discussion of the new home and community-based services that are now available as a result of the health care law, the Affordable Care Act. The new Community First Choice Option will be discussed. Speakers are from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

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Online Chats Sponsored by the Aging Network's Volunteer Collaborative

Online Chat for Volunteer Program Leaders

Join Tobi Johnson for an online discussion on how to effectively engage older volunteers and how to connect your organization's mission with the passions of people who truly want to make a difference.

Date: Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EDT

About the Presenter:

Tobi Johnson, president of Tobi Johnson & Associates, has more than 25 years of experience managing social sector programs in the arts, employment and training, human services, and community health benefits counseling. For the last decade, she has worked with volunteer programs in the aging network, as a SHIP and SMP Director in Washington State and now as a consultant, sharing her ideas and inspiration with nonprofit leaders across the country.

To participate, go to <http://agingnetworkvolunteers.org/event/chat-with-tobi-johnson/>

Online Chat with Aging Network's Volunteer Collaborative Director Tom Endres

Ask your own questions of Tom, and share your answer to his: “How can The Aging Network’s Volunteer Collaborative get you ready to tap the wisdom of older adult volunteers?”

Date: Thursday, May 31, 2012
Time: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EDT

To participate, go to <http://agingnetworkvolunteers.org/event/chat-with-tom-endres/>

To learn more about the Aging Network’s Volunteer Collaborative, visit the website at <http://agingnetworkvolunteers.org>

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Webinar on Dementia Care: Eating Strategies & Nutritional Awareness

The webinar is part three of “Moving Forward with Alzheimer’s & Dementia,” a three part series sponsored by Senior Helpers and Alzheimer’s Foundation of America.

Date: Friday, June 1, 2012
Time: 11:00 a.m. PT / 12:00 p.m. MT / 1:00 p.m. CT / 2:00 p.m. ET

Agenda:

Identifying key factors that affect nutrition and eating when individuals have dementia, as well as identify signs that should raise concern.
Intervention strategies to promote safe and effective eating behaviors and programs through the progression of the disease.

Determining the right amount and types of assistance and environmental supports for people with dementia.

Register Now!

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Third Innovative Communities Summit

Long-Term Care Quality Alliance (LTQA) and the Integrating Care for Populations & Communities National Coordinating Center (ICPC NCC) will co-host the Third Innovative Communities Summit. This summit will showcase communities working to improve care transitions and will highlight the importance of long-term service & support providers for individuals and for community efforts to improve care transitions.

Date: June 4 – 5, 2012

Site: Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC

The full agenda is now available for download. [Click here to learn more about the conference](#)

[REGISTER NOW](#) for this free event.

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Community Preparedness Webinar Series

Start now to become better prepared for disasters this year.

Next week, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will officially launch its webinar series for National Preparedness Month 2012 this September.

You are invited to join representatives from FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness Division and The *Ready* Campaign along with officials of the Arizona Division of Emergency Management and the New York City Office of Emergency Management and Citizen Corps to learn about the number of easy ways that you, your organization, your business, or place of work can become better prepared for disasters this year.

Date: Tuesday, June 5, 2012

Time: 3:00 PM ET/Noon PT (to last for approximately one hour)

Note: In anticipation of a large volume of participants, the webinar meeting room will be opened beginning at 2:30 p.m. EDT. Please feel free

to join the webinar at this time, while understanding that the official event will still begin at 3:00 p.m. EDT.

The Community Preparedness Webinar Series is conducted via the Department of Homeland Security's HSIN Connect system. Audio for this webinar will be broadcast within HSIN Connect and will play through your computer speakers; there will not be a concurrent, phone-based teleconference. Questions and answers will be moderated via text-based chat inside the webinar. If for any reason you have trouble accessing the system, please send an email to citizencorps@dhs.gov.

If you have not participated in a previous HSIN webinar and need to register, please click [here](#) in order to view this webinar.

If you have participated in a previous HSIN webinar and already have a username and password on the HSIN system, please log-in [here](#) in order to view this webinar.

This webinar will last approximately one hour. In addition to airing live, the webinar will be recorded and viewable at a later date and linked from [this](#) web page. The live webinar will offer Closed Captioning and a transcript of the webinar will be posted with the recorded version of the webinar.

The theme for this year's National Preparedness Month is *Pledge to Prepare*. To learn more or to download information, visit the following websites:

[Free Publicity](#)

[Events Calendar](#)

[Connect with Current and New Partners](#)

[Discussion Boards](#)

[Event Ideas and Resources](#)

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State Leaders Re-Imagine Reform: Improving Access to Health and Human Services

Millions of low-income households depend on Medicaid, children's health insurance, food stamps, and child care subsidies to stay in the workforce while managing family, health and other needs. At the same time, states and counties are eager for more efficient and effective ways to serve their communities amid battered revenues and reduced staffs.

How to get out of these binds? The Urban Institute's Work Support Strategies (WSS) Initiative is helping a select group of states as they reform technology, policies and business practices to boost the share of families that receive and

keep the package of public benefits for which they qualify. WSS also seeks to foster innovation that transforms state and county delivery of large public programs and minimizes their administrative burdens.

You are invited to join senior officials from WSS grantee states discuss what implementing a reform vision is really like; how they see the policy, legislative, and funding environments; how they're coping with outdated technology, complex rules, inadequate staff training, and overwhelming local need; what they learned during WSS's planning year; and their ideas about the future.

Date: Tuesday, June 5, 2012

Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Panelists:

Richard Armstrong, Director, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

Reggie Bicha, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Human Services

Albert Delia, Acting Secretary, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Sandra Powell, Director, Rhode Island Department of Human Services

Moderator:

Olivia Golden, Director, Urban Institute Work Support Strategies Initiative

To attend in person in Washington, D.C., register at:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/3575804327>. (Registration is required.)

To watch the video webcast or a recording, go to

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/urban-institute-events>. (No registration is necessary.)

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Train-the-Trainer Program on Taking Your Medicines Safely

Taking Your Medicines Safely (TYMS), is a train-the-trainer program to educate older adults about medication safety and the toll-free Poison Help line (1-800-222-1222). Poisoning can happen to anyone; in fact, older adults are especially at risk for poisonings involving medications. Each year, there are nearly 100,000 emergency hospitalizations in the US among adults aged 65 years or older due to adverse drug events.

Date: Monday, June 18, 2012

Time: 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. EST

Agenda:

Learn how to implement the TYMS program for older adults in your senior center, library, community center, or church.

Medication safety topics including: potential problems with taking prescription medicines or over-the-counter products.

Ways to keep track of medicines and prevent medication mistakes.

Questions older adults should ask about their medicine.

The free and confidential services provided by the nation's poison centers.

Presenters:

Rebeca Sanchez-Barrett, HHS Health Resources and Services Administration
Poison Control Program

Kristin Wenger, Public Health Educator, Blue Ridge Poison Center,
Charlottesville, VA

The TYMS program was developed by the Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration in partnership with the Administration on Aging and the Public Education Committee of the American Association of Poison Control Centers.

Participants are encouraged to visit the Poison Help website and [download the TYMS participant guide](#)

[Register](#)

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Webinar Reminders

Managed Long-Term Services and Supports 101

Date: Tuesday, May 29, 2012

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Eastern

Description:

The Affordable Care Act provides incentives to states to develop new service delivery and payment models for acute care and long-term services and supports, and achieve the three part aim of improving care, improving population health and lowering costs. As a result, a growing number of states are developing and implementing managed LTSS systems for older adults and individuals with disabilities. In this webinar, we will offer an overview of managed long-term services and supports – its history, how such plans currently work, why integration between acute care and long-term services and supports matters, and the challenges associated with such integration.

Presenters:

Marisa Scala-Foley, Administration for Community Living, Washington, DC
Shawn Terrell, Administration for Community Living, Washington, DC

James Toews, Administration for Community Living, Washington, DC

To register for the online event

1. Go to <https://aoa-events.webex.com/aoa-events/onstage/g.php?t=a&d=661740484>
2. Click "Register".
3. On the registration form, enter your information and then click "Submit".

Once your registration is approved, you will receive a confirmation email message with instructions on how to join the event.

Please note: Space is limited, so please register as early as possible. This webinar will also be recorded and posted on our web site (http://www.aoa.gov/Aging_Statistics/Health_care_reform.aspx) soon after the webinar.

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Let's Move Faith and Communities Monthly Call

Join the Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships for its next *Let's Move Faith and Communities* call to learn more about hosting intergenerational health and wellness activities in your community. Several guest speakers will share ideas about how to integrate older generations more actively into wellness leadership and community activities around exercise and nutrition.

Date: Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Time: 2:00 p.m. ET, 1:00 p.m. CT, 12:00 p.m. Mountain, 11:00 a.m. PT

[Click here to RSVP](#) . Call-in information will be emailed in advance of the call.

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NeedyMeds Webinar Series

NeedyMeds is a non-profit information resource for people searching for programs that offer assistance with medications and other related health care costs. This bi-monthly webinar series will provide an overview of the different resources available on the NeedyMeds website.

To register, click [May 31 at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time](#)

To learn more about NeedyMeds, go to <http://www.needymeds.org/index.htm>

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Tolls & Information

2010 Title VI Data Is Now Available on AGID

2010 Title VI data is now available on AGID (AGing Integrated Database) at WWW.AGIDNET.ORG

The Title VI provision of the Older Americans Act provides funding to Tribal Organizations for a range of services to assist elderly Native Americans, including Alaskan and Hawaiian natives, and their caregivers. The Administration on Aging requires the Tribal Organizations to report on the services provided under the Act. Services provided fall under three main categories: nutrition services, supportive services and caregiver support services. The data submitted regards grantee activities during 2010.

Add Your Voice to the National Online Dialogue on Transportation

The national online dialogue on transportation, "*Strengthening Transportation Choices So We Can Serve Those Who Have Served Their Country*," is for US Veterans, service members, their families and caregivers, community service providers, and the Aging and Disability Services Network. This event, sponsored by The Federal Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility, began on May 7 and will end on June 8.

As of last week, 1400 people visited the site, 340 participants shared more than 165 comments, 348 votes and 51 ideas. Thus far, the balance of people with primary interest across various stakeholder groups include: public transportation (28%), veterans' services (22%), human services transportation (11%), medical transportation (6%), disability services (4%), employment/workforce (3%), and planning (3%).

For more information click: ["Strengthening Transportation Choices So We Can Serve Those Who Have Served Their Country"](#) and add your voice to the conversation!

Bridging Aging and Developmental Disabilities Service Networks Report

Produced by the Institute on Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois at Chicago, Bridging Aging and Developmental Disabilities Service Networks, identifies policy and service delivery issues pertaining to older adults with developmental disabilities and their families and recommends opportunities to enhance collaboration among the aging, disability and long-

term care networks. Key policy initiatives addressed include the Aging and Disability Resource Centers, the Lifespan Respite Act, the National Alzheimer's Project Act, and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

[Download report \[1.2MB PDF\]](#)

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New Websites Target Caregivers of Alzheimer's Patients

Two new websites launched earlier this month were specifically created as resources for the ever-growing population of those caring for those with Alzheimer's.

One, run by the Department of Health and Human Services, www.alzheimers.gov, and part of the Obama Administration's plan to at least stall, if not completely prevent Alzheimer's disease by 2025, is a comprehensive, go-to compilation of information on Alzheimer's from all sectors—for all sectors.

There are evocative videos of caregivers, factsheets from the National Institute on Aging, HBO documentaries and Memory Loss Tapes projects, and extensive health information culled from institutions like the Mayo Clinic and the U.S. National Library of Medicine. There is pragmatic legal advice and information on spotting symptoms, but mainly there are useful links to every major player in the Alzheimer's realm.

Alzheimer's CARE, sponsored by Home Instead Senior Care, provides *Alzheimer's Disease & Other Dementias Course*, an interactive educational course for families caring for Alzheimer's and other dementia sufferers.

Included in the five-session course are topics on:

- Understanding Alzheimer's & Dementia
- Capturing Life's Journey
- Managing Behaviors
- Encouraging Engagement
- Safety

Each class can be completed in 5 – 15 minutes.

Caregivers can also access other resources from the site.

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A New Step Forward in Fighting Food Stamp Fraud

The US Department of Agriculture recently announced a [proposed rule](#) that will provide States with additional tools to maintain integrity in the [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#) (SNAP), also known as food stamps. The proposed rule will help States identify and prevent fraud by allowing them to request client contact when there are excessive Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card replacement requests by SNAP households. The rule also further clarifies the definition of what constitutes trafficking.

To learn more about these new rules, go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/05/24/new-step-forward-fighting-food-stamp-fraud>

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United States and Mexico Make Efforts to Strengthen US-Mexican Bi-National Health

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Mexico Secretary of Health Salomón Chertorivski last week announced a series of new steps to strengthen health security cooperation between the two countries. The health secretaries outlined these efforts during the 65th World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland.

The two health secretaries signed a declaration formally adopting a shared set of technical guidelines that both countries will follow to respond to public health events and emergencies of mutual interest when they arise. The guidelines describe how the two nations will coordinate the exchange of information, and they complement the International Health Regulations, which call for neighboring countries to develop accords and work together on shared epidemiologic events and public health issues.

To learn more, go to <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/05/20120522a.html>

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Observances

May Observances

Arthritis Awareness Month

Sponsor: Arthritis Foundation

To learn about observance events and programs in your community, go to <http://www.arthritis.org/arthritis-awareness-month.php>

Asthma Awareness Month

Sponsor: Environmental Protection Agency

To learn more or to download a toolkit, go to <http://www.epa.gov/asthma/>

Mental Health Awareness Month

Sponsor: Mental Health America

To learn more or to download a toolkit, go to

<http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/go/may>

National Physical Fitness and Sports Month

Sponsor: President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports

To learn more or to download materials, go to <http://www.fitness.gov/>

May 27 - June 2: *National Hurricane Preparedness Week*

Sponsor: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Weather Service

To learn more, go to <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

May 30: *National Senior Health & Fitness Day*[®]

Sponsor: Mature Market Resource Center

Theme: "Get Moving...Start Improving!"

To get event and registration materials, go to <http://www.fitnessday.com/>

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June Observances

National Home Safety Month

Sponsor: Home Safety Council

www.homesafetycouncil.org/homesafetymonth

June 5

World Environment Day

Sponsor: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

www.unep.org/wed

June 11 – 17

National Men's Health Week

Sponsor: National Men's Health Network

www.menshealthweek.org

June 15

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Sponsor: International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

<http://www.inpea.net/weaad.html>

June 17-23

Falls Prevention Week

Sponsor: National Safety Council

http://www.nsc.org/nsc_events/Nat_Safe_Month/Pages/Week3.aspx

June 27

National HIV Testing Day

Sponsor: National Association of People With AIDS

www.napwa.org

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