



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
**Greene County**



## Greene County Public Health

Melissa Howell MS, MBA, MPH, RN, REHS, Health Commissioner  
Kevin L. Sharrett, MD, Medical Director

# Press Release

For Immediate Release  
September 10, 2024

Contact: Laurie Fox, Public Information Officer  
937-374-5669 office / 937-283-5178 cell / lfox@gcph.info

## Hep C Cure Squad to be in Xenia on September 18, 2024

**XENIA, OH** – Greene County Public Health and SafeTrade syringe services program officials have partnered with *Hep C Cure Squad* powered by Central Outreach Wellness Center to provide a crucial health service in Xenia. This event will take place at the main office of Greene County Public Health located at 360 Wilson Drive in Xenia on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, from 1:00 – 4:00pm.

### What is Hepatitis C?

**Hepatitis C** (hep C) is a liver infection caused by the hep C virus (HCV). Hep C is spread through contact with blood from an infected person. There are several different ways to contract Hep C and HIV including needle and work sharing (including inhalation), snorting, sharing personal hygiene products like toothbrushes and razors, sex, and tattoos. Baby boomers (born 1946 – 1964) and Vietnam veterans are high risk, as well as anyone that received a blood transfusion or surgery before 1992.

Chronic hep C will result in death if left untreated and can cause health problems like cirrhosis and liver cancer. People with chronic hep C can often have no symptoms and don't feel sick. When symptoms appear, they often are a sign of advanced liver disease. There is no vaccine for hep C. The best way to prevent hep C is by avoiding behaviors that can spread the disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) currently recommends everyone in the United States be tested at least once in their lifetime for hep C, more frequently for those in higher risk groups. The rapid testing for exposure is free and completed in ten minutes. Treatment is completed in eight to twelve weeks.

The *Hep C Cure Squad* will be available at Greene County Public Health in Xenia on Wednesday, September 18, from 1:00 – 4:00pm to provide FREE testing and treatment to anyone that needs it. Sobriety is not required for treatment and appointments are not necessary. If a resident has active virus, medication will be provided that has proven to be 98% effective at curing hep C with minimal side effects. HIV testing, preventive medications, and connection to care will also be provided at this event. *If you do not have insurance, please bring your Medicaid rejection letter.*

For more information or questions, please call or text Colton at [\(937\) 607-8653](tel:9376078653).

**Greene County Public Health...**  
**Your Accredited and Trusted Local Public Health Authority Since 1920**

###