



## The Hepatitis C Mask

This mask, from the exhibit “Aggravated Organisms,” was carved by Drew Michael (Yupik/Inupiaq) and painted by Elizabeth Ellis (Alutiiq/Sugpiaq) to represent hepatitis C. This mask and 9 more representing other diseases explore how our bodies’ cells are sometimes overtaken by disease. The masks traveled through Alaska and the Seattle area to spread awareness before being burned in a traditional ceremony.

The Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board aims to raise awareness of the hepatitis C mask, the story of its modern creation, and its message of the importance of hepatitis C testing and treatment.



## Learn more

It's time to make a decision to get actively involved, raise awareness, and care for ourselves and the ones we love.

**Text CURE to 97779**



**NPAIHB**  
Indian Leadership for Indian Health

[www.npaihb.org/hcv](http://www.npaihb.org/hcv)



## Hepatitis C:

Everybody's Responsibility

**IHS, tribal, and urban Indian clinics can cure you of hepatitis C**

“Getting treated makes you someone strong enough to get in and get help to wipe out this disease.”

**Debra Myers (Makah), cured of hepatitis C**



**NPAIHB**  
Indian Leadership for Indian Health

# Get tested

**We are responsible for each other and ourselves.**

- Up to 75% of people with hepatitis C do not know they have it.
- Many people live with hepatitis C for decades with no symptoms.
- Baby boomers born from 1945-1965 are 5 times more likely to have hepatitis C.
- Hepatitis C can cause liver damage, liver failure, and even death.

# Get treated

New treatments have very few side effects.

Treatment can be completed in as little as 8 weeks with 1 pill a day.

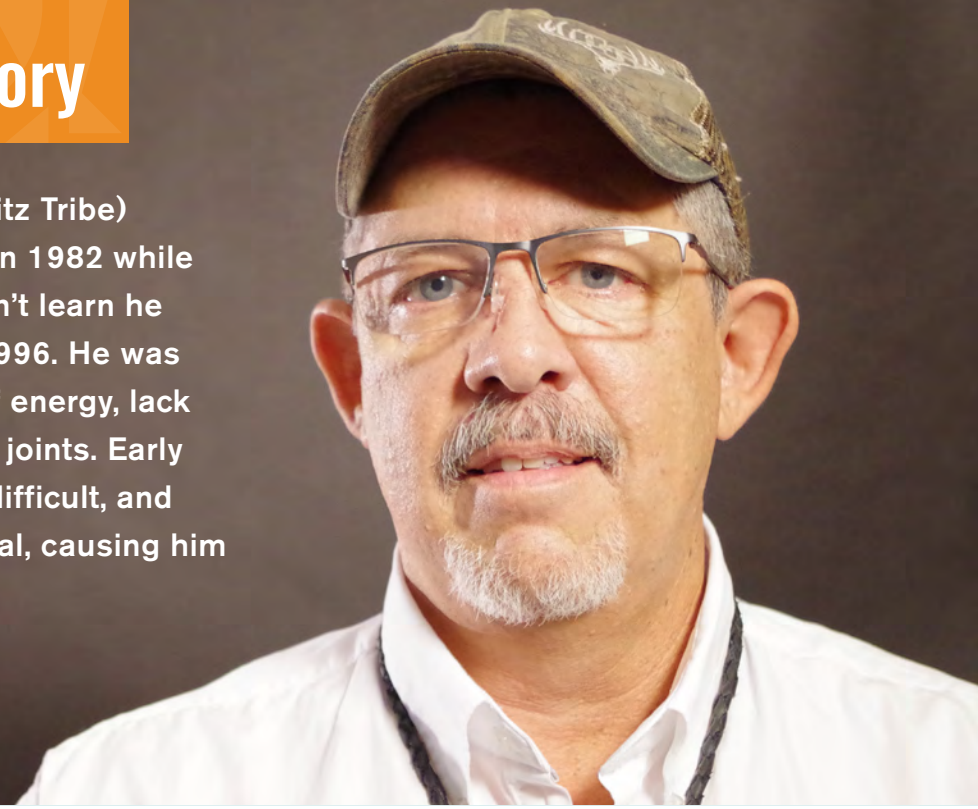
IHS or your tribal or urban Indian health center can help you find coverage for treatment.

# Advocate for your health

- Help your doctor understand you're ready to put hepatitis C behind you.
- Express yourself and be clear—let your doctor know that you're ready to find a cure.
- Remember you are your best advocate. If your doctor doesn't provide treatment, ask to be referred to someone who does treat.

## Micheal's Story

Micheal Buckner (Cowlitz Tribe) contracted hepatitis C in 1982 while getting tattoos, but didn't learn he had the disease until 1996. He was suffering from a loss of energy, lack of motivation, and achy joints. Early treatments were long, difficult, and unsuccessful for Micheal, causing him to get discouraged.



*“The long-term effects of having Hep C all these years have cost me greatly,” he said.*

But recently, Micheal was offered a new treatment—one that took just 12 weeks to cure him of Hep C.

*“There were no side effects, and I’m happy to say I don’t have hepatitis C anymore. I’m more active, have more energy, am less achy, and feel more positive.”*

Micheal urges others to get tested and treated, too.

*“It’s not going to go away unless you do something about it.”*