



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **London Drugs Expands Hepatitis C Screening Program**

*More than 80,000 believed to be infected but many unaware. Assessable screening is critical to early diagnosis and liver disease prevention.*

**November 19, 2018, Richmond, B.C.** – London Drugs has expanded availability of its innovative and potentially life-saving hepatitis C screening program from five locations to seven in the Lower Mainland.

“Making screening more accessible is critical to helping those at risk receive an early diagnosis. Early diagnosis is important to help patients avoid potentially serious liver disease, including liver failure, cirrhosis and liver cancer,” said Jane Xia, Manager Specialty Pharmacy and Services at London Drugs.

Testing guidelines published by the Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver recommend that all Canadians born between 1945 and 1975 get tested for the potentially liver-destroying virus. There are approximately 80,000 British Columbians believed to be infected with hepatitis C and the province has one of the highest rates of new cases per year in Canada. Many are unaware they harbour the blood-borne virus because it can take decades before symptoms become evident.

“We are committed to expanding the program and increasing awareness among those who may have been exposed,” says Xia. “More London Drugs pharmacists are being trained and we are now able to offer screening at more locations.”

The screening process involves a simple finger prick test at the pharmacy to check if they have been exposed to hepatitis C virus (HCV) at some point in the past. The screening test, called the OraQuick HCV rapid antibody test, is more than 99% accurate at detecting HCV antibodies and provides results in 20 minutes.

In cases of a positive result, pharmacists refer patients to their family doctor for a diagnostic lab test. Pharmacists provide initial counselling regarding the potential diagnosis and education about the ability to cure HCV.

The London Drugs Specialty Pharmacy aims to provide our patients with the best circle care for complex diseases. Our mission is to increase access for our patients and shorten the duration of their journey for better health outcomes.

Starting Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup> the Hepatitis C screening program will be expanded to include the following two locations:



[Ironwood Plaza](#)

11666 Steveston Highway  
Richmond, BC  
V7A 5J3

[Victoria Drive](#)

5639 Victoria Drive  
Vancouver, BC  
V5P 3W2

Pharmacy: (604) 448-5468    Pharmacy: (604) 322-6050

Hepatitis C screening has been available at the following five London Drugs locations since September 7th.

[Peninsula Village Mall](#)

15355 - 24th Avenue  
South Surrey, British  
Columbia V4A 2H9

[Park Royal North](#)

875 Park Royal North  
West Vancouver, British  
Columbia V7T 1H9

[Kerrisdale](#)

2091 W 42nd Avenue  
Vancouver, British  
Columbia V6M 2B4

Pharmacy: (604) 535-3281    Pharmacy: (604) 926-9616    Pharmacy: (604) 263-1811

[West Broadway](#)

525 West Broadway  
Vancouver, British  
Columbia V5Z 1E6

[Granville & Georgia](#)

710 Granville St.  
Vancouver, British  
Columbia V6Z 1E4

Pharmacy: (604) 872-5177    Pharmacy: (604) 685-5292

Patients can call or visit the pharmacy to book an appointment to take the test. The cost of the test is \$24.

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## About London Drugs

Founded in 1945, B.C.-based London Drugs has 81 stores in more than 35 major markets throughout British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba including its online store [www.LondonDrugs.com](http://www.LondonDrugs.com). London Drugs offers consumers a range of products from digital cameras and cosmetics to computers and televisions. Renowned for its creative approach to retailing, the company employs more than 7,500 people with pharmacy and health care services being the heart of its business. Committed to innovation and superior customer service, London Drugs has established itself as a reputable and caring company and continues to position itself for future growth and development.

To arrange an interview, please contact:

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