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Senator Keaveny Asks Veterans To Get Free Tests

JEFFERSON CITY— Even though the congressional investigation is well underway, Missouri Sen. Joe Keaveny (D-St. Louis) wants veterans to get the testing they need to find out if they may have been exposed to dangerous diseases at the St. Louis Veteran’s Administration (VA) hospital.

The hospital made national headlines when it sent letters to thousands of veterans who had visited the hospital indicating that they may have been exposed to HIV or hepatitis infections when dental equipment was not sterilized properly.

“The testimony yesterday indicates that only about half of these veterans that received letters have been tested,” said Sen. Keaveny. “There are many veterans in the St. Louis area who use this hospital, and the important thing to do now is to make sure that everyone who got a letter gets tested.”

According to the VA Hospital, veterans may get free blood tests with no co-payment at the three outpatient clinics — the Jefferson Barracks Division (1 Jefferson Barrack Dr.), the St. Charles clinic (7 Jackson Ct.) or the Belleville, Ill., clinic (6500 W. Main St.). Veterans are urged to call the 24-hour hotline at 1-888-374-3046 with any questions or to schedule an appointment.

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