

Toolkit for New Viral Hepatitis Health Department Staff

This toolkit is designed for new viral hepatitis health department staff to help you get started in your new role and includes basic information, recommendations, key national partners, CDC funding opportunities, and where to go for help.

Acknowledgements

This product was developed by the NASTAD Hepatitis Technical Assistance Center (HepTAC). The following NASTAD staff and HepTAC consultants contributed to this toolkit:

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HepTAC would like to thank the following individuals who provided important guidance and feedback in the development of this toolkit:

- Viral Hepatitis Prevention and Surveillance Coordinators
- NASTAD Staff
- National Viral Hepatitis Technical Assistance Center at the New York State Department of Health, AIDS Institute
- Newer Hepatitis Staff
- CDC's Division of Viral Hepatitis
 - Anne Moorman
 - Clarisse Tsang
 - Danae Bixler
 - Monica Adams
 - Nicola Thompson
 - Pamela Lemos

Development of this toolkit was supported by funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Introduction and How to Use This Toolkit

Congratulations and welcome! If you are reading this toolkit, chances are that you were recently hired to serve as a Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator, Viral Hepatitis Epidemiologist, or in another viral hepatitis role at your Health Department. The most important thing to know is that you aren't alone! HepTAC is here to help you at every step of the way and we hope this toolkit will help you get started and learn more about your role. Since there are many different types of roles you may take on, for the purpose of this toolkit we will address the two main roles: Viral Hepatitis Prevention and Viral Hepatitis Surveillance staff at state, local, and territorial health departments.

Some of the questions you may have about your new position may include:

- 1. What information about viral hepatitis do I need to master?
- 2. What are the scope and limits of my responsibilities?
- 3. What should I focus on in my first weeks and months on the job?
- 4. Who are the main people I will be working with on a day-to-day basis?
- 5. Are there any key documents or guidelines that I should become familiar with right away?
- 6. What is the purpose of a viral hepatitis program in a public health department?
- 7. What will it take to be successful in this position?
- 8. Where can I turn for help?

This Orientation Guide was developed by HepTAC to help answer these questions.

We gathered information from new and seasoned professionals in the viral hepatitis field to create this toolkit. As information, the community, and the viral hepatitis landscape is constantly changing, so will this resource. We will add to and update this toolkit as new information becomes available and we need your help to do so. If you have suggestions, changes, updates, or other helpful tips, please notify us at any time at hepatitis@nastad.com. The manner in which you move through your first few months may vary greatly based on your background, jurisdiction, and prior work completed by previous coordinators in your jurisdiction. As most health departments have very different structures, we cannot address every issue you may encounter; however, this toolkit should be a good foundation and guide you in the right direction. Everyone should work with their supervisor and project officer to develop a tailored approach to ensure jurisdictional goals are met. That said, there are still many elements and tasks that will be common to all and this toolkit provides a baseline for how to get started.

Basic Information

When starting in the viral hepatitis field you may come with a broad knowledge of viral hepatitis or have very little exposure. Don't fret, there are a lot of great resources out there to help you learn more about the areas in which you may be lacking. Below we have listed some of the most popular and helpful sites that have everything from basic facts to clinical-level specifics. Read through the sites, watch videos, print out fact sheets - and we encourage you to join listservs, subscribe to newsletters, seek out webinars and online classes and try to absorb as much as you can. And don't worry, you will catch on and soon you will be an expert! To get started, here are some of the basics related to hepatitis.

The term hepatitis refers to inflammation of the liver, which can be caused by a multitude of different factors (e.g., excessive alcohol use, drugs and toxins, chemicals) or from a viral hepatitis infection.

There are five main types of viral hepatitis viruses (A through E) and each type varies in transmission, treatment, and recovery. The most common symptom of viral hepatitis is jaundice, a medical condition with yellowing of the skin, and symptoms of each viral hepatitis infection can include nausea, vomiting, fever, fatigue, abdominal pain, joint pain, gray-colored bowel movements, and loss of appetite. It is important to know that signs and symptoms a person experiences can vary significantly, and symptoms may or may not be present even after years of infection.

Acute viral hepatitis is the early stage of viral infection and can lead to chronic infection—which is a lifelong illness that occurs when the virus remains in a person's body and can lead to serious liver problems. This toolkit will focus on the most common types of viral hepatitis — hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C, including some on hepatitis D (Delta).

Acute **hepatitis A virus (HAV)** infection is spread through the fecal-oral route via person-to-person contact or ingestion of contaminated food or water. Previously, hepatitis A virus was primarily limited to facility-based (e.g., daycares, nursing homes); however, as of 2017 (and still ongoing) there has been a national hepatitis A outbreak that has disproportionately impacted men who have sex with men, persons experiencing unstable housing or homelessness, and persons using recreational drugs (injection and non-injection). There is no chronic hepatitis A infection. The best way to prevent hepatitis A infection is through vaccination.

Acute **hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection** is spread when blood or other body fluid infected with the hepatitis B virus enters the body of a person who is not infected. This can happen through multiple ways, sexual contact, sharing drug injection equipment, other blood-to-blood contact and from an infected mother at birth or from a family member as a young child. Hepatitis B disproportionately affects Asian Americans in the U.S. While they make up 6% of the population, they account for more than 60% of Americans living with hepatitis B. The best way to prevent hepatitis B infection is through vaccination.

Acute **hepatitis C virus (HCV)** is spread when blood infected with the hepatitis C virus enters the body of a person who is not infected through. Today, most people become infected by sharing needles or other equipment used to prepare and inject drugs. Acute hepatitis C virus can progress to chronic hepatitis C infection. There is no vaccination for hepatitis C infection; however, there is a cure.

Hepatitis D, also known as "delta hepatitis," is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis D virus (HDV). HDV only occurs in people who are also infected with the hepatitis B virus. HDV is spread when blood or

other body fluids from a person infected with the virus enters the body of someone who is not infected. HDV can be an acute, short-term infection or become a long-term, chronic infection.

Hepatitis E is found in the stool of an infected person. It is spread when someone unknowingly ingests the virus – even in microscopic amounts. In the United States and other developed countries where hepatitis E is not common, people have gotten sick with hepatitis E after eating raw or undercooked pork, venison, wild boar meat, or shellfish. In the past, most cases in developed countries involved people who have recently traveled to countries where hepatitis E is common. Symptoms of hepatitis E can include fatigue, poor appetite, stomach pain, nausea, and jaundice. However, many people with hepatitis E, especially young children, have no symptoms. Except for the rare occurrence of chronic hepatitis E in people with compromised immune systems, most people recover fully from the disease without any complications. No vaccine for hepatitis E is currently available in the United States.

Basic Information and National Resources

We have included some great sites to get a further overview of viral hepatitis, vulnerable populations, and social issues. We couldn't possibly cover it all but please let us know if you find or know of a great resource that you don't see here and we'll add it! Also, some sources become outdated or links stop working so please update us if you discover that as well.

Viral Hepatitis General Resources			
CDC — Division of Viral Hepatitis Website	CDC's main information website, includes statistics and surveillance, basic facts, and resources.		
CDC — Overview of Viral Hepatitis Website	This web page on Hepatitis A, B, and C provides an overview for health professionals of statistics, transmission, risk factors, clinical features, screening, testing and vaccination recommendations.		
CDC — Viral Hepatitis Serology Training Website	Upon completion of this training, participants will be able to understand the different serologic tests for HAV, HBV, HCV, HDV, and HEV infections, understand the serological diagnosis of HAV, acute and chronic HBV, acute and chronic HCV, and Hepatitis B and Hepatitis D coinfection, understand the meanings of serologic markers, and understand and interpret serologic test results.		
Veterans Administration – Viral Hepatitis and Liver Disease Website	This site provides information for health care providers, Veterans and the public on prevention, testing, treatment and research.		
CDC Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Case Management: Guidance for State, Territorial, and Local Health Departments Website	The purpose of this document is to provide jurisdictional guidance to implement and improve hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C surveillance and case management, including reporting requirements, collection of relevant laboratory data, and case investigation. Given that current systems for the surveillance and follow-up of cases differ by jurisdiction, the standards outlined in this document are designed to provide models for best practices, recognizing that not every jurisdiction can meet those standards with available resources.		

CDC – Integrated Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Prevention Funding for Health Departments Website	Landing page for information on the CDC-RFA-PS21-2103. IVHSP supports integrated viral hepatitis surveillance and prevention programs in states, territories, and large cities in the United States over five years (2021–2026). It will support the capacity of states, territories, and large cities to detect and respond to viral hepatitis outbreaks; to collect and analyze data to inform the development and implementation of public health interventions to prevent and control viral hepatitis; and to support viral hepatitis elimination planning and maximize access to viral hepatitis prevention, testing, and treatment to reduce the burden of viral hepatitis in their jurisdictions.
CDC Viral Hepatitis Outbreak Resources Website	Information to ensure rapid and coordinated surveillance, detection, and response to hepatitis outbreaks. Specific to hepatitis A outbreaks, hepatitis C outbreaks in PWID, health care-associated HBV and HCV outbreak investigations, and reporting HBV and HCV infections in repeat blood donors.
Hepatitis Foundation International Website	General viral hepatitis information, resources, and online store for VH educational materials.
Hep/HepMag Website	Hep is a print and online brand for people living with and affected by viral hepatitis. Hep and HepMag.com are the go-to source for educational and social support for people living with hepatitis and others wishing to learn more.
Hep ElimiNATION Website	Hep ElimiNATION, a National Evaluation of States' Capacity for Viral Hepatitis Elimination, is an advocacy tool to bring awareness to policymakers, public health agencies, and communities about a broad range of key considerations for elimination.
World Hepatitis Alliance (WHA) Website	General Viral Hepatitis information, global information, World Hepatitis Day, "NOhep" campaign
Observance Days Website Viral Hepatitis – Statistic	Hepatitis Awareness Month (HAM), month of May National Hispanic Hepatitis Awareness Day (NHHAD), May 15 National Hepatitis Testing Day, May 19 National African American Hepatitis C Action Day (NAAHCAD), July 15 World Hepatitis Day, July 28 Liver Cancer Awareness Month, month of October

Viral Hepatitis – Statistics & Surveillance Data

CDC Atlas Plus Website	HIV, Hepatitis, STD, TB, Social Determinants of Health Data. The intended audience includes CDC staff, federal, state, tribal, local and territorial public health professionals, policymakers, community- and faith-based organization leaders, researchers, students, and those infected and affected by HIV, viral hepatitis, STDs, and/or TB.
CDC Statistics & Surveillance Website	US Viral Hepatitis Surveillance, Surveillance Guidelines and Forms, Health Care Related Outbreaks Reported to CDC.
CDC National Progress Report on Viral Hepatitis -2022 Website	Provides information on progress in the implementation of recommended interventions and the impact these interventions are having on prevention of viral hepatitis transmission, disease, and associated mortality.

CDC WONDER Website	WONDER online databases utilize a rich ad-hoc query system for the analysis of public health data. Reports and other query systems are also available.
HepVu Website	Use HepVu in your work and to learn more about the viral hepatitis epidemic. From downloadable data sets to educational infographics, HepVu offers a variety of materials to help illustrate the impact of hepatitis in the U.S.
Mapping Hep C Website	An interactive online resource committed to improving the awareness of chronic hepatitis C (Hep C) epidemiology in the United States.

Hepatitis A Virus — General			
CDC — Hepatitis A Website	Overview of hepatitis A with resources for professionals and the public. Guidelines and recommendations, immunization schedules, statistics and educational materials.		
CDC – Hepatitis A, Acute 2019 Case Definition Website	The most recent case definition for Acute hepatitis A.		
CDC – Hepatitis A Vaccination Website	CDC's information on hepatitis A vaccine and recommendations.		
Immunize.org – Hepatitis A Vaccine Information Website	Hepatitis A information for patients and staff including handouts, vaccine information sheets and state laws and mandates.		
HHS – Vaccines.gov Website	Hepatitis A vaccine information from the Department of Health and Human Services		
WHO – Hepatitis A Website	Global perspective of Hepatitis A and WHO efforts		
American Liver Foundation Website	American Liver Foundation makes a difference in the fight against liver disease by providing financial support for medical research, education for medical professionals, and advocacy and information for patients and their families, and by creating public awareness campaigns about liver wellness and disease prevention.		

Hepatitis B Virus — General			
CDC – Hepatitis B	Overview of Hepatitis B, including screening and vaccinations.		
Website			
CDC – Hepatitis B Vaccination	CDC's information on hepatitis B vaccine and recommendations.		
<u>Website</u>			

CDC – Hepatitis B, Acute 2012 Case Definition Website	The most recent case definition for acute hepatitis B
CDC – Hepatitis B, Chronic Case Definition Website	The most recent case definition for chronic hepatitis B.
CDC —Hepatitis B Education Resources Website	Resources for patients and professionals in multiple languages,
Hepatitis B Foundation (HBF) Website	The Hepatitis B Foundation is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to finding a cure and improving the quality of life for those affected by hepatitis B worldwide. Hepatitis B info, HCV co-infection, HIV co-infection, liver cancer, prevention and diagnosis, treatment and management, resources and support, research and news.
Hep B United (HBU) Website	Hep B United is a national coalition dedicated to reducing the health disparities associated with hepatitis B by increasing awareness, screening, vaccination, and linkage to care for high-risk communities across the United States.
Hepatitis B Online Website	A free educational website from the University of Washington National Hepatitis Training Center. This site addresses the diagnosis, monitoring, and management of hepatitis B virus infection.
HHS — Hepatitis B <u>Website</u>	Hepatitis B overview, guidelines and data from the Department of Health and Human Services
HepB.com Website	Gilead sponsored website with basic HBV information, testing and diagnosis, treatment and living with Hep B. Website and materials available in several languages.
Hepatitis B Virus —Testir	ng & Treatment
CDC—Recommendations for Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) Screening, Testing, and Vaccination Website	A table that provides recommendations for screening, testing and vaccination for children and adults based on population groups
CDC—Screening and Testing Recommendations for Chronic Hepatitis B Virus Infection Website	Summary of the 2023 screening and testing recommendations for Hepatitis B Virus Infection

CDC—Interpretation of Hepatitis B Serologic Test Results Website	Overview of different serologic "markers" or combination of markers used to identify different phases of HBV infection. Includes definitions and a table for test and results interpretation, and action.
AASLD - Hepatitis B Treatment Guidance Website	The AASLD 2018 Hepatitis B Guidance is intended to complement the AASLD 2016 Practice Guidelines for Treatment of Chronic Hepatitis B1 and update the previous hepatitis B virus (HBV) guidelines from 2009.

Hepatitis C Virus — General			
CDC — Hepatitis C Information Website	Hepatitis C overview, testing, statistics and surveillance, professional resources, patient education resources.		
CDC – Hepatitis C, Acute 2020 Case Definition	The most recent case definition for acute hepatitis C.		
<u>Website</u>			
CDC – Hepatitis C, Chronic 2020 Case Definition	The most recent case definition for chronic hepatitis C.		
Website			
Hepatitis C Online Website	A free educational website from the University of Washington National Hepatitis Training Center. This site addresses the diagnosis, monitoring, and management of hepatitis C virus infection. Module One may be most helpful and appropriate for an overview. HCV biology and HCV medications are also covered.		
HHS – Hep C Website	Hepatitis C overview, guidelines and data		
Hepatitis Policy Project Website	Working at the intersection of law and policy to set a course towards elimination of viral hepatitis in the United States. Priority issues: Data and Surveillance, Access to Treatment and Care, Hepatitis C and Injection Drug Use, Elimination of Hepatitis C		
Community Access National Network – Hepatitis Education, Advocacy & Leadership (HEAL) Website	The Hepatitis Education, Advocacy & Leadership (HEAL) Coalition - a project of the Community Access National Network (CANN) - was launched to provide an interactive national platform whereby we identify relevant issues facing people infected with viral hepatitis, as well as facilitate the ongoing framework for appropriate treatment guidelines for this population. HEAL also addresses the unique needs of people co-infected with HIV and Hepatitis C (HCV).		
Johns Hopkins Medicine – You Tube	Hepatitis C overview video		

Updated July 2023

Watch Video

Hepatitis C Virus — General

TEDx Talks - 25 Years From Discovery To Cure: The Hepatitis C Story

Watch Video

Dr. Afdhal discusses how discovery of HCV lead to understanding the global epidemiology and modes of spread of hepatitis C and the recognition that it was the commonest cause of cirrhosis, liver cancer and need for liver transplantation. The development of model systems to look at viral replication led to treatments initially with injectable interferon to new all oral direct acting anti-viral agents. How these treatments have changed the discussion in the US on the cost of new medications and the ongoing plans to bring these expensive treatments to developing countries with high hepatitis C burden.

NASTAD Success Stories

Website

In recognition of the important work of health department HIV and viral hepatitis programs, NASTAD has released a series of success stories highlighting local programs that address individual, community, and systems level needs and are advancing progress towards ending the HIV and viral hepatitis epidemics. The success stories demonstrate innovation, vision, and commitment to strengthening programs to better meet the needs of people living with and at risk for HIV and hepatitis infection.

Hepatitis C Virus — Testing & Treatment

AASLD	/IDSA	HIV	Guide	lines
AAJLU	/ IDSA	1117	Julue	:1111153

 $\label{eq:hcv} \mbox{HCV Guidance: Recommendations for Testing, Managing, and Treating Hepatitis}$

Website

CDC Testing Recommendations

CDC Recommendations for Hepatitis C Screening Among Adults – April 20,2020

Website U.S. Preventive Services Task

Force

Final Recommendation Statement: Hepatitis C Virus Infection in Adolescents

Website

CDC HCV Testing Sequence

Flow chart: Recommended Testing Sequence for Identifying Current HCV Infection

Website

Hep C Rapid Testing

OraSure Technologies resources on rapid HCV testing using the OraQuick HCV Rapid Antibody Test

Website

Get Tested - National HIV

Get Tested – National HIV, STD and Hepatitis Testing

Test site locator, basic information and testing campaign materials

Website

Know More Hepatitis

CDC Hepatitis C Testing Campaign. Includes basic info, campaign materials, and professional resources.

Website

CDC Vital Signs: "Too Few People Treated for Hepatitis C Reducing Barriers Can Increase Treatment and Save Lives" Few insured persons with diagnosed hepatitis C receive timely DAA treatment, and disparities in treatment exist. Unrestricted access to timely DAA treatment is critical to reducing viral hepatitis—related mortality, disparities, and transmission. Treatment saves lives, prevents transmission, and is cost saving.

Website

Updated July 2023

and Adults: Screening - March 02, 2020

Hepatitis C Virus —Testing & Tr	eatment
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Operational Guidance for Implementing CDC's Recommendations on Testing for HCV New guidance for completion of HCV testing supports operational strategies that collect samples at a single visit, and automatic HCV RNA testing on all HCV antibody reactive samples. Use of strategies that require multiple visits to collect samples should be discontinued.

Hepatitis C—State of Medicaid Access

Hepatitis C is our nation's deadliest bloodborne infectious disease, yet many state Medicaid programs have discriminatory restrictions that keep Americans from being cured and stop us from ending the epidemic.

Website

Website

NVHR—Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access

Website

This report details hepatitis C treatment prior authorization restrictions in all state Medicaid programs, including traditional fee-for-service as well as managed care. The report focuses on three of the most significant prior authorization restrictions to treatment: liver damage, sobriety, and prescriber limitations. It is the most comprehensive public listing of these restrictions to date.

Geographical distribution, transmission, symptoms, treatment, prevention,

Hepatitis D (Delta) Virus - General

CDC information on hepatitis D virus.
A dedicated program of the Hepatitis B Foundation to increase awareness about
hepatitis delta - a serious virus that coinfects hepatitis B patients - and to promote screening and testing, and provide information and support for those affected.
Gilead sponsored website with HDV overview, prevalence, testing, management,
and resources.

Hepatitis E Virus - General

CDC- Hepatitis E	CDC information on hepatitis E virus.
<u>Website</u>	

WHO response

World Health Organization – Hepatitis E Fact Sheet

WHO - Hepatitis D

WHO Hepatitis E fact sheet in several languages.

Website

Website

Coinfections - HIV and STIs

CDC-HIV	Basic information about HIV transmission, prevention, testing, and more.
Website	

CDC-Hepatitis and HIV Co- infection Website	Guidelines, recommendations, and resources for people co-infected with HIV and viral hepatitis.
NIH – AIDS Info Website	Basic info, guidelines, medication, research, etc.
Avert Website	Global information and education on HIV and AIDS
National HIV Awareness Days <u>Website</u>	Information and all HIV awareness days including National HIV Testing Day and World AIDS Day.
CDC-Sexually Transmitted Disease Website	Prevention, testing, treatment, data and statistics, resources, training, etc.
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health	Health care workers, emergency response and public safety personnel, and other workers can be exposed to blood through needlestick and other sharps injuries, mucous membrane, and skin exposures. Workers and employers should take advantage of available engineering controls and work practices to prevent exposure to blood and other body fluids.

Health of People Who Use Drugs

People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) / People Who Use Drugs (PWUD)	
CDC - National Harm Reduction Technical Assistance Center Website	The National Harm Reduction Technical Assistance Center (NHRTAC) provides free help to anyone in the country providing (or planning to provide) harm reduction services to their community. This may include syringe services programs, health departments, programs providing treatment for substance use disorder, as well as prevention and recovery programs.
National Harm Reduction Coalition (HRC) Website	National resources on harm reduction, overdose prevention, syringe access implementation, training and capacity building, policy and advocacy, conference and events, speaking engagements, work in action. Resource center with materials on syringe access, safer drug use, hepatitis C and others.
Managing HIV and Hepatitis C Outbreaks Among People Who Inject Drugs Website	Comprehensive guide for state and local health departments released in March 2018 by CDC.
SAMHSA – Evidence Based Practices Resource Center Website	The Evidence-Based Practices Resource Center provides communities, clinicians, policy-makers and others with the information and tools to incorporate evidence-based practices into their communities or clinical settings.
NVHR – Drug Users and Hepatitis C Website	More than Tested, Cured project; Mini-grants; HCV treatment access; PCORI HERO Study; articles and presentations; resources.

People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) / People Who Use Drugs (PWUD)	
CDC- People Who Use or Inject Drugs and Viral Hepatitis	Guidelines, recommendations, and resources on testing and immunization of Viral Hepatitis for PWID
Website	
NASEN: North America Syringe Exchange Network – Harm Reduction Locations Website	This directory includes harm reduction locations that NASEN is authorized to publish by the agency. This directory is intended to locate an agency by service, city, state, and/or zip code.
CDC-Syringe Services Programs Website	Facts Sheets, national policy, resources, etc.
HIV.gov - People Who Inject Drugs <u>Website</u>	Links to many other resources including federal response, webinars, research, reports, etc.
INHHSU – International Network on Health and Hepatitis Substance Users	A global network dedicated to improving the health of people who use drugs, with a specific focus on hepatitis C, infectious diseases, and harms that can occur from drug use.
Website	

National Viral Hepatitis Plans and Recommendations

We have compiled some key documents that will inform your work in viral hepatitis and will help you get a better understanding of the landscape. The documents outlined below may be updated and referred to often so you may want to bookmark their location.

HHS Mapping Hepatitis Elimination in Action Viral Hepatitis National Strategic Plan: A Roadmap to Elimination 2021-2025 - PDF

Website

A growing number of hepatitis elimination projects are being established across the United States. These projects implement the Viral Hepatitis National Strategic Plan's call for more coordinated and collaborative efforts aimed at elimination. A wide range of stakeholders including states, local jurisdictions, health systems, and non-governmental organizations are leading and collaborating in these efforts across a variety of settings.

The <u>Viral Hepatitis National Strategic Plan: A Roadmap to Elimination 2021-2025 - PDF</u> provides a framework to eliminate viral hepatitis as a public health threat in the United States by 2030. The Viral Hepatitis Plan focuses on hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C. The Plan provides goal-oriented objectives and strategies that can be implemented by a broad mix of stakeholders at all levels and across many sectors, both public and private, to reverse the rates of viral hepatitis, prevent new infections, improve care and treatment and ultimately eliminate viral hepatitis as a public health threat in the United States.

CDC Division of Viral Hepatitis Strategic Plan, 2025

Website

In this document, CDC's Division of Viral Hepatitis (DVH) presents its 2025 goals and strategies to reduce new viral hepatitis infections, reduce viral hepatitis-related morbidity and mortality, reduce viral hepatitis-related disparities, and to establish comprehensive national viral hepatitis surveillance.

National Viral Hepatitis Progress Report – 2022

Website

The Viral Hepatitis National Progress Report provides information on progress in the implementation of recommended interventions and the impact these interventions are having on prevention of viral hepatitis transmission, disease, and associated mortality. In 2020, CDC modified the goals and associated targets from previous reports to align them with CDC's Division of Viral Hepatitis 2025 Strategic Plan and HHS's Viral Hepatitis National Strategic Plan for 2021-2025.

MMWR - CDC Recommendations for Hepatitis B Virus Infection: United States, 2023

Website

This report updates and expands CDC's previously published Recommendations for Identification and Public Health Management of Persons with Chronic Hepatitis B Virus Infection (MMWR Recomm Rep 2008;57[No. RR-8]) regarding screening for HBV infection in the United States. New recommendations include hepatitis B screening using three laboratory tests at least once during a lifetime for adults aged ≥18 years. The report also expands risk-based testing recommendations to include the following populations, activities, exposures, or conditions associated with increased risk for HBV infection: persons incarcerated or formerly incarcerated in a jail, prison, or other detention setting; persons with a history of sexually transmitted infections or multiple sex partners; and persons with a history of hepatitis C virus infection.

CDC Guidelines and Recommendations for Hepatitis A

Website

Includes the MMWR Articles: "Prevention of Hepatitis A Virus Infection in the United States: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, 2020" and "Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for Use of Hepatitis A Vaccine for Persons Experiencing Homelessness."

USPSTF Screening Recommendations – Hepatitis B Virus Infection in Adolescents and Adults

Website

Screening for Hepatitis B Virus Infection in Adolescents and Adults US Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement, December 15, 2020.

Universal Hepatitis B Vaccination in Adults Aged 19–59 Years: Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2022

Website

This Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendation expands the indicated age range for universal HepB vaccination to now include adults aged 19–59 years.

Prevention of Hepatitis B Virus Infection in the United States: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices

Website

This report updates and summarizes previously published recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and CDC regarding the prevention of HBV infection in the United States.

Screening and Testing Recommendations for Chronic Hepatitis B Virus Infection (HBV)

Website

Summary of 2023 HBV screening and testing recommendations

CDC Guidelines for Hepatitis B Perinatal Screening and Immunizations

Website

Guidelines and recommendations for perinatal HBV screening and immunizations. Also includes educational materials and other resources.

CDC Recommendations for Hepatitis C Screening Among Adults in the United States – 2020

Website

CDC is augmenting previous guidance with two new recommendations: 1) hepatitis C screening at least once in a lifetime for all adults aged 18 years and older, except in settings where the prevalence of hepatitis C infection is less than 0.1%; and 2) hepatitis C screening for all pregnant women during each pregnancy, except in settings where the prevalence of hepatitis C infection is less than 0.1%.

The recommendation for hepatitis C testing that remains unchanged is regardless of age or setting prevalence, all persons with risk factors should be tested for hepatitis C, with periodic testing while risk factors persist. Any person who requests hepatitis C testing should receive it, regardless of disclosure of risk, because many persons might be reluctant to disclose stigmatizing risks.

USPSTF Screening Recommendations- Hepatitis C Virus Infection in Adolescents and Adults

Website

Screening for Hepatitis C Virus Infection in Adolescents and Adults US Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement, March 2, 2020.

Sexually Transmitted Infections Treatment Guidelines, 2021

Website

These guidelines for the treatment of persons who have or are at risk for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) were updated by CDC after consultation with professionals knowledgeable in the field of STIs who met in Atlanta, Georgia, June 11–14, 2019. The information in this report updates the 2015 guidelines.

Overview of CDC and NASTAD

There are several national partners that you will be working with on a regular basis who can provide you with support, resources, funding, and connections. Please take a moment to visit and learn about some of our partners, below, who are integral in efforts to eliminate viral hepatitis. Connect with them by visiting their sites, joining their mailing lists, and participating in their events. Section to be updated November 2021, including National and Local Partners.

CDC - Division of Viral Hepatitis

Website

The Division of Viral Hepatitis (DVH) is part of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STI, and TB Prevention at CDC. In collaboration with domestic and global partners, DVH provides the scientific and programmatic foundation and leadership for the prevention and control of hepatitis virus infections and their manifestations.

DVH consists of three branches — the Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, the Prevention Branch, and the Laboratory Branch — that work collaboratively to prevent viral hepatitis infections and associated liver disease.

As part of the national cooperative agreement Integrated Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Prevention (IVHSP) Funding for Health Departments (CDC-RFA-PS21-2103), DVH provides technical assistance to 59 health departments on viral hepatitis surveillance and prevention activities. There are five regional teams that cover five regions (A through E). Each regional team consists of three DVH staff: Surveillance Officer, Prevention Program Officer, and Epidemiologist. For more information about PS21-2103, visit:

https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/policy/2103 CoAg.htm



Figure: Health Department Support Regional Map

DVH can respond to inquiries such as:

- Routine vaccine indications and logistics
- Case ascertainment
- Interpretation of lab results
- Onboarding states to send HL7 notifications
- Maintaining a longitudinal database
- VH modes of transmission
- Risk factors for VH and special pops (e.g., PEH, PWID, corrections)
- VH case investigation and response
- Healthcare associated VH
- Indications and process for public notification
- Indications and process for pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis
- VH treatment
- Perinatal VH
- Health equity

Contact DVH FOA@cdc.gov for technical assistance needs.

CDC's National Prevention Information Network (NPIN): Private Integrated Viral Hepatitis Community

- Register for NPIN to obtain additional DVH resources as well as resources from jurisdictional health departments and other partners: https://npin.cdc.gov/user/register
- Complete the registration form using work email.
- Enter the invitation code: COOLEY
- Resources include:
 - Viral Hepatitis Elimination Plans
 - Surveillance Reports
 - Lab Survey Assessments
 - Outbreak Response Resources

Case Surveillance News

This is a monthly newsletter about NNDSS and a collaboration by NNDSS partners CDC, CSTE, and APHL. Subscribe here for the latest updates and check out the archives here!

NASTAD - National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors

 Website
 Facebook
 Twitter
 Instagram
 YouTube
 Contact Information

NASTAD's mission is to end the intersecting epidemics of HIV, viral hepatitis, and related conditions by strengthening domestic and global governmental public health through advocacy, capacity building, and social justice. Interpret and influence policies, conduct trainings, offer technical assistance, and provide advocacy mobilization for U.S. health departments.

NASTAD members are state and local health department staff who have programmatic responsibility for administering HIV and hepatitis healthcare, prevention, education, and supportive service programs funded by state and federal governments. Each state, territory, and local jurisdiction identifies its NASTAD member. NASTAD members offer considerable expertise in identifying community needs and responding to the challenges of the HIV and hepatitis epidemics nationwide and throughout the world.

NASTAD's programs include: Health Care Access, HIV Prevention, Health Systems Integration, Hepatitis & Drug User Health, Policy& Legislative Affairs, Health Equity.

Hepatitis Team

Website

NASTAD's Hepatitis team provides guidance and technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of state and local health departments to develop, maintain and enhance comprehensive hepatitis programs as they address the continuum from prevention through cure.

- Boatemaa Ntiri-Reid, Senior Director, Syndemic Approaches bntiri-reid@nastad.org
- Rita Isabel Lechuga, Associate Director, Hepatitis rlechuga@nastad.org
- Jasmine West, Manager, Hepatitis jwest@nastad.org
- Zakiya Grubbs, Manager, Hepatitis zgrubbs@nastad.org

Click <u>here</u> to access our team page and newly added resources, webinars, and staff updates.

Hepatitis Technical Assistance Center (HepTAC)

Website

In 2019, NASTAD launched HepTAC, an online technical assistance (TA) and capacity building center for health department hepatitis programs. The primary goal of HepTAC is to build state and local technical expertise and enhance health department capacity to eliminate viral hepatitis. Direct technical assistance is provided primarily via the online platform using video conference technology to connect NASTAD Hepatitis team staff and its consultants to health department hepatitis staff across the county. Group learning opportunities will occur through calls, webinars, workgroups, a bi-monthly newsletter, a discussion board, an online resource bank, office hours, success stories, mentorship, and courses in the following tracks: Hepatitis Program Infrastructure and Workforce, Community Engagement and Strategic Planning, Harm Reduction and Prevention, Epidemiology and Surveillance, Testing and Linkage to Care, Care and Treatment, Stigma and Health Equity, Elimination.

Click here to download or view the Viral Hepatitis Elimination Plans.

Click <u>here</u> for the **HepTAC Resource Bank**, topics include: Elimination, Program Infrastructure and Workforce, Community Engagement and Strategic Planning, Harm Reduction and Prevention, Epidemiology and Surveillance, and Care and Treatment.

Please email hepatitis@nastad.org or visit: https://www.nastad.org/heptac if you have questions or would like to learn more about HepTAC.

NASTAD - National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors

National Harm Reduction TA Center

Website

Since its founding in 1992, NASTAD members have been concerned about the role of drug use in the transmission of HIV and HCV, health outcomes for persons living with HIV and hepatitis who use drugs, and the structural and policy barriers to effectively address the prevention, care, and treatment needs of persons who inject drugs. To address the prevention, care, treatment, and policy needs related to drug user health, NASTAD has partnered with federal, state, and local governments and community partners to continue to advocate for a comprehensive response to these environmental crises to address this important population. In addition to partnerships with key organizations, NASTAD produces resources, provides technical assistance to our members and community-based harm reduction programs, and advocates for an effective science based public health approach to address the needs of people who inject drugs.

Contact <u>druguserhealthTA@NASTAD.org</u> for more information

NASTAD's Hepatitis Technical Assistance Center (HepTAC)

In 2019, NASTAD launched HepTAC, an online technical assistance (TA) and capacity building center for health department hepatitis programs. The primary goal of HepTAC is to build state and local technical expertise to enhance health department capacity to eliminate viral hepatitis. Direct technical assistance is provided primarily via the online platform using videoconference technology to connect NASTAD Hepatitis team staff and its consultants to health department hepatitis staff across the country. Group learning opportunities will occur through several settings: calls, webinars, workgroups, a monthly newsletter, an online resource bank, office hours, success stories, and virtual session on the following tracks:

- Hepatitis Program Infrastructure and Workforce;
- Community Engagement and Strategic Planning;
- Harm Reduction and Prevention;
- Epidemiology and Surveillance;
- Testing and Linkage to Care;
- Care and Treatment; and
- Elimination.

Click here for the **HepTAC Resource Bank** on the above topics.

Stay in Touch!

Have questions and/or feedback about HepTAC? Email us at Hepatitis@nastad.org. We want HepTAC to meet your hepatitis technical assistance needs, and encourage you to share your thoughts and/or recommendations for improving the system at any time.

NASTAD's Viral Hepatitis Prevention and Surveillance Virtual Learning Collaborative (VLC)

The VLC is a virtual learning community and training series designed to support viral hepatitis health department staff implement the viral hepatitis prevention and surveillance activities set forth in CDC's Integrated Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Prevention Funding for Health Departments (CDC-RFA-PS21-2103) and is open to all state, territorial, and local health departments.

Download overview here. Download FAQs here.

The VLC Year 2 sessions are taking place through July 2023. The format for Y2 of the VLC will consist of two monthly sessions; the first will be a presentation and the second will be discussion based with breakout sessions to allow for participants to directly engage with presenters and/or SMEs. Sessions will range from 60-90 minutes depending on the topics and begin at 3:00 PM ET.

Click here to register for the <u>2022-2023 VLC here</u> and subscribe to <u>NASTAD's Hepatitis Newsletter</u> for monthly updates.

Additionally, VLC sessions are archived <u>here.</u> You can access the session recordings and presentation slides toward the bottom of the webpage.

NASTAD's Hepatitis Newsletter: Happenings and Updates

NASTAD Hepatitis team circulated a monthly newsletter. Every month includes NASTAD recent and upcoming events, partner updates, a community spotlight, requests for information, job announcements, and articles of interest. Subscribe to NASTAD's Hepatitis Newsletter for monthly updates.

Hepatitis Workgroup Calls

Additionally, each newsletter includes upcoming workgroup calls. Reach out to hepatitis@nastad.org if you're interested in joining.

- Hepatitis C Linkage to Care Workgroup
- Hepatitis and PWID Services Workgroup
- Outbreak Detection Planning Workgroup

Policy Updates: Hill Happening and Administration Activities

NASTAD's Policy and Legislative Affairs Team circulates a monthly newsletter. Click <u>here</u> to subscribe and learn more about fiscal year appropriations, Administration activities, and a political news bulletin.

Health Equity and Anti-Racism

NASTAD recognizes racism and the impact of structural oppression on HIV, viral hepatitis, and other co-occurring epidemics as a public health crisis. Without intentional and conscious work against racism to address intersecting health inequities, we contribute to and perpetuate the systems that create and sustain these injustices.

NASTAD commits to identifying, operationalizing, and sharing impactful and measurable anti-racist actions across the organization and its membership to dismantle racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and the stigma of drug use as drivers of disparate health outcomes.

Did you know? Viral Hepatitis Coordinators can be NASTAD Board Members

In May 2022, NASTAD's Membership bylaws were updated, allowing NASTAD jurisdictions the opportunity to include an additional voting member and implementing a new set of Board term limits.

- Read more: NASTAD's Updated Bylaws Expand and Diversity Membership
- Members can be found in <u>NASTAD's Membership Directory</u>

Word Matter – Choose People First Language

As a new staff member, you might be familiar with viral hepatitis work, or you might be facing a steep learning curve. Wherever you are, it is important to acknowledge *how* we're talking about people with lived experience and expertise. Check out the resources below to use people-first language and replace stigmatizing terms.

- Language Guidance, End the Syndemic, Tennessee
- People-First Language, Positive Women's Network

Health Equity Guiding Principles for Inclusive Communication

CDC's <u>Health Equity Guiding Principles for Inclusive Communication</u> emphasizes the importance of addressing all people inclusively and respectfully. These principles are intended to help public health professionals, particularly health communicators, within and outside of CDC ensure their communication products and strategies adapt to the specific cultural, linguistic, environmental, and historical situation of each population or audience of focus.

NASTAD's Hepatitis Network for Education and Testing (HepNET)

Through this CDC cooperative agreement, NASTAD (National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors) and their partners National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR) and National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) are focusing on improving the health of people who



inject drugs (PWID). Together they are growing a network of Health Departments, Syringe Service Programs, Community-Based Organizations, healthcare providers, and other partners of diverse geographic representation that serve PWID. NASTAD and its partners will provide technical assistance and training to network members with a focus on hepatitis B and hepatitis C testing and linkage to care.

Click here for an overview of HepNET's Network Stakeholders and structure.

Sign up <u>here</u> to become a HepNET network member and receive unique opportunities for technical assistance in your jurisdiction specific to hepatitis testing and linkage to care for people who inject drugs.

Key National Hepatitis Partners

CDC—Division of Viral Hepatitis	
Website	https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/index.htm
Description	The Division of Viral Hepatitis (DVH) is part of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STI, and TB Prevention at CDC. In collaboration with domestic and global partners, DVH provides the scientific and programmatic foundation and leadership for the prevention and control of hepatitis virus infections and their manifestations. DVH consists of three branches — the Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, the Prevention Branch, and the Laboratory Branch — that work collaboratively to prevent viral hepatitis infections and associated liver disease.
NVHR—National Vira	l Hepatitis Roundtable
Website	https://nvhr.org/
Social Media	https://twitter.com/NVHR1
Contact Information	info@nvhr.org
Description	The National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR) is national coalition working together to eliminate hepatitis B and C in the United States. NVHR's vision is a healthier world without hepatitis B and C.

	NVHR's work will be guided and informed by our beliefs and commitment to: Participation, Intersectionality, Health equity, and Stigma elimination NVHR has great newsletters, fact sheets, helpful webinars, and other resources.
HBF—Hepatitis B Fou	ndation
Website	https://www.hepb.org/
Social Media	https://www.facebook.com/hepbfoundation
	https://twitter.com/hepbfoundation
	https://www.instagram.com/hepbfoundation/
	https://www.youtube.com/user/HepBFoundation
Contact Information	info@hepb.org
Description	The Hepatitis B Foundation is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to finding a cure and improving the quality of life for those affected by hepatitis B worldwide. Our commitment includes funding focused research, promoting disease awareness, supporting immunization and treatment initiatives, and serving as the primary source of information for patients and their families, the medical and scientific community, and the general public.
ASTHO—Association	of State and Territorial Health Officials
Website	https://www.astho.org/Hepatitis/
Description	ASTHO is working to enhance the role for state health agencies in addressing hepatitis and to demonstrate the value of infrastructure and funding at the state public health level. State Viral Hepatitis Epidemiological Profiles
	The viral hepatitis epidemiological profiles share state-level data to frame the burden of
	hepatitis B and C in local terms. To date, 26 states have completed.
SAMHSA—Substance	Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Website	https://www.samhsa.gov/
Description	SAMHSA is the agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that leads public health efforts to advance the behavioral health of the nation. SAMHSA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's

communities. Congress established SAMHSA in 1992 to make substance use and mental disorder information, services, and research more accessible.

There are many grant opportunities and many circumstances in which you may need to partner with SAMHSA funded agencies. Identify your State Substance Abuse and Mental Health partners in your jurisdiction and connect with them to identify ways you can collaborate and work together on cross-cutting issues.

Some of Viral Hepatitis resources from SAMHSA: Addressing Viral Hepatitis in People With Substance Use Disorders, Take Action Against Hepatitis C: For People in Recovery From Mental Illness or Addiction.

NHRC—National Harm Reduction Coalition

Website	https://harmreduction.org/
Social Media	https://www.facebook.com/HarmReductionCoalition https://www.instagram.com/harmreductioncoalition https://twitter.com/HarmReduction
Contact Information	https://harmreduction.org/about-us/contact/
Description	National Harm Reduction Coalition's mission is to promote the health and dignity of individuals and communities affected by drug use. As a national advocacy and capacity building organization, we aim to shift power and resources to people most vulnerable to structural violence and racialized drug policies. National Harm Reduction Coalition was founded in 1993 and incorporated in 1994 by a working group of needle exchange providers, advocates and drug users. Today, we are strengthened by an extensive and diverse network of allies who challenge the persistent stigma faced by people who use drugs and advocate for policy and public health reform. Policy & Advocacy: Harm Reduction Coalition's Policy arm works to eliminate the existing disparities in the provision of health care and basic human services for drug users and their communities. Programs and Services Include: Training & Capacity Building, Overdose Prevention & Advocacy, National Conferences, and Resources & Publications. Resources that can be found on our website include brochures, fact sheets, manuals, posters, training curricula, videos, bulletins and podcasts that span all aspects of harm reduction.

Local Hepatitis Partners

Some jurisdictions have great local or regional programs that are just as helpful as national organizations. Below are a few great examples. Please reach out to them for more information about their programs and resources.

END Hep C SF	
Website	https://endhepcsf.org/
Social Media	https://www.facebook.com/EndHepCSF/ https://twitter.com/EndHepCSF https://www.instagram.com/endhepcsf/
Contact	info@endhepcsf.org
Description	End Hep C SF is a multi-sector collective impact initiative that utilizes evidence-based practices, community wisdom, and the creative leveraging of resources to work toward hepatitis C elimination in San Francisco. San Francisco has a history of innovative and ambitious public health efforts. End Hep C SF emerges from that history to tackle an epidemic that kills more Americans than the deaths from sixty other reportable infectious diseases, including HIV, pneumococcal disease, and tuberculosis, combined. End Hep C SF envisions a San Francisco where hepatitis C is no longer a public health threat, and hepatitis C related health inequities have been eliminated. Our mission is to support all San Franciscans living with, and at risk for, hepatitis C to maximize their health and wellness. We achieve this through prevention, education, testing, treatment, and linkage to reduce morbidity, mortality, and stigma related to hepatitis C.
Hep Free Hawaii	
Website	https://www.hepfreehawaii.org/
Social Media	https://www.facebook.com/hepfreehawaii https://www.instagram.com/hepfreehawaii/ https://twitter.com/hepfreehawaii
Contact Information	https://www.hepfreehawaii.org/contact-us

Description

Hep Free Hawai'i (HFH) is a coalition of local, national, and global partners dedicated to increasing awareness of and access to viral hepatitis and harm reduction services throughout the state of Hawaii. Born out of a partnership between the Hawaii Department of Health, the CHOW Project (now the Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center), and other community agencies, Hep Free Hawai'i has been successful by connecting with communities across the islands to make Hawai'i truly "Hep Free."

For World Hepatitis Day 2020, we released "Hep Free 2030: The Hawai`i Hepatitis Elimination Strategy 2020-2030" to share the priorities, directions, and opportunities for our communities to eliminate hepatitis in Hawai`i.

HepCAP—Hepatitis C Allies of Philadelphia

Website	http://www.hepcap.org/
Social Media	https://www.facebook.com/phillyhepcap https://twitter.com/Hep_CAP https://www.instagram.com/hepcap/
Description	HEPCAP is a city wide collective dedicated to improving the continuum of hepatitis C prevention, diagnosis, care, and support services with the goal of eliminating Hepatitis C from the City of Philadelphia. HepCAP members are case managers, doctors, students, lawyers, representatives from city agencies and people living with hepatitis C. We are experts and we are people who want to learn more about the disease. Everyone in HepCAP has one thing in common: we think hepatitis C is a disease that needs more attention and more support. We know that we have the talent and resources in Philadelphia to make a big impact on this disease if we join forces as a community.

HEP FREE NYC

Website	https://hepfree.nyc/
Social Media	https://www.facebook.com/HepFreeNYC/ https://twitter.com/hepfreenyc
	https://www.instagram.com/hepfreenyc/ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9nx165kB_jMvCXZfW8g1RA
Contact Information	https://hepfree.nyc/contact-us/

Description

Hep Free NYC is a network comprised of the Hep B Coalition, Hep C Task Force and Hep C Clinical Exchange Network (HepCX). The network brings together health care and social service providers, public health professionals, advocates, and consumers to network, share best practices, identify needs, and develop and implement strategies to improve health outcomes of people at risk for or living with hepatitis B and C in NYC. Hep Free NYC's goal is to build community capacity to prevent, manage and treat hepatitis B and C in NYC.

Conclusion

This concludes the Basics and Big Picture Section of the NASTAD HepTAC New VH Staff Toolkit. We hope you have found it useful. As you explore the resources available, please notify us at hepatitis@nastad.org if you have any questions, corrections, updates, suggestions, and any other feedback. This is a living document and will be updated regularly.

This is a living document and will be updated annually. We are open to feedback and suggestions on what may be helpful to you as newer staff.