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August Newsletter

National Immunization Awareness Month

NVHR supports COVID-19 vaccine legislation, Hawai'i launches hepatitis elimination plan, NVHR advocates are in the news, and more.

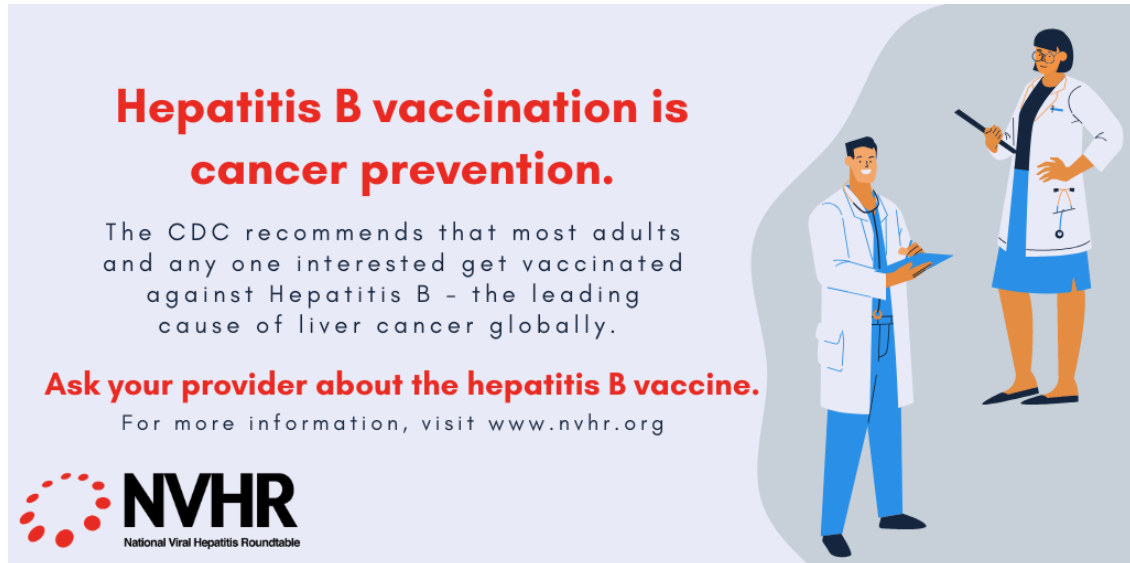
National Immunization Awareness Month

For many of us, August normally symbolizes "back to school" month which is a good reminder to make sure your school-aged children are up to date on their vaccines. But during **National Immunization Awareness Month**, it's important to remember that adults should also be up to date on recommended vaccines.

Hepatitis A and hepatitis B are both vaccine preventable diseases. And there's a vaccine for hepatitis B that can be completed in as little as two doses. Have you gotten your vaccine?

NVHR also signed on to support the **COVID Treatment Coverage Act**, which would guarantee access to COVID-19 vaccines without cost sharing across public and private health insurance programs once a vaccine is available.

Make sure you and your loved ones are up to date on your vaccines this month!



Hepatitis B vaccination is cancer prevention.

The CDC recommends that most adults and any one interested get vaccinated against Hepatitis B - the leading cause of liver cancer globally.

Ask your provider about the hepatitis B vaccine.

For more information, visit www.nvhr.org

NVHR
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable

Join NVHR for our Monthly Grassroots Advocacy Call Thursday, August 20

NVHR's monthly Grassroots Advocacy Call serves as an opportunity to join advocates across the U.S. to share viral hepatitis advocacy actions and progress and connect about effective methods of driving change.

Did you know, Congress is currently on recess and Representatives and Senators are at home in their districts? What does that mean for advocacy and engaging with their offices?

To find out, join us on Thursday, August 20 at 3:00 pm ET and hear from others advocating for our community across the country.



Your Input Needed

Our friends at the [Community Education Group](#) and [Rural Health Service Providers Network](#) need your help!

If you are a provider who provides essential health services to rural Americans, please consider completing [a survey for Rural Health Providers](#).

If you are a **West Virginia resident and/or provider**, please also consider completing the [West Virginia Opioid Treatment Moratorium Survey](#).

COVID-19 Update

As the country continues facing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress is deadlocked in negotiating additional relief for those impacted. Many members of our community serving on the front lines of this response, especially those operating harm reduction programs, **have not received resources from any COVID-19 response legislation.**

But you can help: [Send an email to your lawmakers](#) urging them to increase funding for frontline public health programs as a part of future COVID-19 relief legislation.

We urge you to **continue following local guidelines regarding physical distancing and wearing masks** and hope that you and your loved ones remain safe and healthy during these trying times. You can read more about the impact of COVID-19 on those with liver disease [from the CDC](#).

[**Email Congress Today!**](#)

Recent NVHR News

As we move through the dog days of summer, we're not slowing down! Check out the latest in our community:

- NVHR Medical Advisor and Provider Advocate Dr. Stacey Trooskin was published in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#), providing several recommendations about what it will take to eliminate hepatitis C among people who inject drugs (PWID). The article is a reminder that **PWID are underserved, NOT un-deserving**, and that we all have a role to play in alleviating the stigma and discrimination experienced by most people with HCV who inject drugs.
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- New research from NVHR provider advocate Dr. Catherine Chappell at the Magee-Womens Research Institute shows promising results for pregnant women being treated for hepatitis C. [Read more about the trial.](#)
- Marguerite Schauer, interim staff attorney at the Center for HIV Law & Policy, recently wrote in [Georgia Health News](#) about lessons we can learn from the ongoing hepatitis epidemic to create better policies during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation of Harvard Law School (CHLPI) recently [filed a class action lawsuit](#) on behalf of Texas Medicaid enrollees alleging that hepatitis C treatment was rationed due to cost. If you're a provider and would like to join the class on behalf of your patients, [please let us know.](#)
- Our friends at Hep Free Hawai'i launched a [comprehensive hepatitis elimination strategy](#). If you are a part of an organization developing an elimination strategy, [let us know!](#)
- Did you see the new [CDC 2018 Viral Hepatitis surveillance data](#) released on World Hepatitis Day? Data shows that viral hepatitis is on the rise, with rates rising in part due to unsafe injection drug use. Join us in [urging Congress to increase funding for Viral Hepatitis.](#)
- Finally, thank you to all the patient advocates who joined us virtually on World Hepatitis Day for sharing their stories and helping raise awareness of viral hepatitis. Check out some of their stories on our new [Vimeo channel!](#)

What's Coming Up?

Make sure you're following us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#), for the latest from the hepatitis community. We continue advocating for more public health resources and COVID-19 funding for viral hepatitis programs.

- Keep an eye out for opportunities to **support key bills** that will increase access for an eventual COVID-19 vaccine.
- **Join us** for our monthly grassroots call to learn about advocacy efforts across the country. Have an item to add to the agenda? **Please email Adrienne.**
- Watch out for some exciting news from our friends at Harvard's **Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation.**
- Want to tell your story? Connect with us for tips about submitting a **Letter to the Editor** in your local newspaper!



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