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September Newsletter

NVHR member action opportunities, CDC Viral Hepatitis 2025 Strategic Plan and progress report, and more!

Add Your Voice & Take Action!

For Clinicians and Professional Associations: Because of the barriers to care that COVID-19 poses to patients living with hepatitis C, we are sending customized letters to state officials to demand that prior authorization criteria that do not align with the standard of care be removed. We are seeking signatures from clinicians and professional associations to support this effort.

[Will you join us?](#)

CLINICIANS

ASSOCIATIONS

Calling all patients, survivors, clinicians, and other hepatitis advocates: We're looking to better understand our grassroots advocates through a [short survey](#) in order to be able to best connect you with fellow advocates, gain support for local initiatives, or access resources to help you have a bigger impact.

TAKE SURVEY



COVID-19 Update

The country continues facing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and Congress has yet to pass 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

The CDC's Department of Viral Hepatitis released its [2020 Hepatitis Progress Report](#) and the [2025 Strategic Plan](#) towards the end of August. The report showed that while some progress has been made towards reducing deaths related to hepatitis B and C, new hepatitis A and hepatitis C cases increased drastically.

The Strategic Plan includes a new focus on **expanding surveillance** to better detect and respond to viral hepatitis outbreaks. The emphasis on surveillance and additional funding for state and local jurisdictions will strengthen the detection of and response to hepatitis outbreaks, but should also include **increased testing and linkage to care** to combat rising hepatitis rates driven largely by increases in injection drug use and the ongoing opioid crisis.

Additional News:

- The [Advisory Committee](#) held their inaugural meeting on September 4th. During this meeting members learned more about one another and discussed committee charges for the next meeting, including Advisory Committee structure, strategic planning, and membership analysis. The committee will meet on a quarterly basis.
 - In case you missed it, the CDC is encouraging PWID to get vaccinated for hepatitis A and B amid hepatitis A outbreaks and rising rates of viral hepatitis due to injection drug use. Check out new resources and more information [here](#).
 - September is [Recovery Awareness Month](#), which celebrates the gains made by those in recovery and serves to educate Americans that
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substance use treatment and mental health services can enable those with mental and substance use disorders to live healthy and rewarding lives. Keep an eye on our social media for more!

- We have compiled a [calendar](#) of public hepatitis events, webinars, and milestones - check it out here. Have something to add? [Please email Adrienne.](#)



What's Coming Up?

Make sure you're following us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#), for the latest from the hepatitis community and don't forget to check [our calendar](#) for upcoming events. We continue advocating for more public health resources and COVID-19 funding for viral hepatitis programs, as well as supporting state-specific advocacy campaigns.

- [Join us](#) for our monthly grassroots call coming up on September 17 to learn about advocacy efforts across the country. Have an item to add to the agenda? [Please email Adrienne.](#)
 - Join The AIDS Institute and NASTAD on **October 22nd** for the first ever **Hepatitis Virtual Collaborative!** This free event is a partial-day opportunity for hepatitis and infectious disease advocates and patients to virtually connect and learn about what jurisdictions are doing to combat viral hepatitis. Keep an eye out for registration information to come! Email [Frank Hood](#) or [Jasmine West](#) with questions.
 - Save the Date for [AASLD's The Liver Meeting](#)! We're looking forward to the all-virtual event which is coming up quickly, November 13-16 2020. Keep an eye out for more!
 - October is Liver Cancer Awareness Month. Want to share your story in local media to impact policies or encourage others to get tested for hepatitis? [Let us know and we can help.](#)
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SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 22, 2020

Hepatitis Virtual Collaborative

NASTAD and The AIDS Institute are excited to host the first ever Hepatitis Virtual Collaborative! It is a partial-day opportunity for hepatitis and infectious disease advocates and patients from across the country to come together virtually to connect with each other and learn about what jurisdictions are doing to combat viral hepatitis in their communities through presentations and conversations. Best of all, it's FREE!

Presentations will include hepatitis elimination strategies and how a syndemic approach must be taken that incorporates responses to the viral hepatitis epidemics, overdose prevention, and other public health efforts. Additional barriers to advancing hepatitis elimination will also be examined, including criminalization of hepatitis and drug use, discrimination and stigma concerns, treatment access issues in correctional settings, vaccination barriers, and health inequities.

Registration information will be sent around at a later date. In the meantime, don't forget to mark October 22nd on your calendars!



Please reach out to Frank Hood (Fhood@taimail.org) or Jasmine West (jwest@nastad.org) with any questions.



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