



Next month is [Hepatitis Awareness Month](#)! NVHR will be going **Back To Basics**. **Back to Basics** is a weekly series that aims to raise awareness of hepatitis A, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and hepatitis D and amplify advocacy resources and opportunities throughout the month. We'll be sharing the stories of people with lived experience, as well as highlighting the work of our advocacy partners to ultimately eliminate viral hepatitis by 2030. Be sure to stay in touch with NVHR over email, social media, and our website throughout the month of May!

A graphic for Hepatitis Awareness Month. It features a central white square with a dark blue border. Inside the square, the text "MAY IS HEPATITIS AWARENESS MONTH" is written in bold, dark blue, uppercase letters. Below this text is a circular logo with a green border. Inside the circle is a red silhouette of a liver, and the words "HEPATITIS AWARENESS" are written in a smaller, dark blue font around the bottom half of the circle. Below the circle, the hashtag "#HEPATITISAWARNESMONTH" is written in bold, dark blue, uppercase letters. The background of the graphic is a colorful, geometric pattern of triangles in shades of pink, teal, yellow, and light blue. In the top left corner of the graphic, the NVHR logo is repeated in a smaller size.

MAY IS HEPATITIS AWARENESS MONTH

#HEPATITISAWARNESMONTH

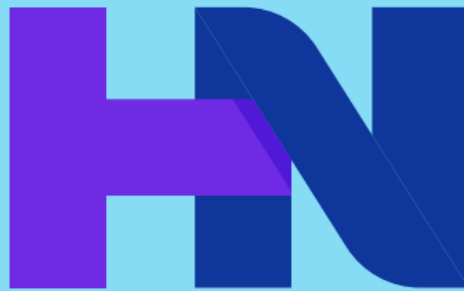
May is Hepatitis Awareness Month - NVHR is going **Back To Basics** to raise awareness of hepatitis A, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and hepatitis D.

TAKE ACTION

SAVE THE DATE

MAY 12, 2022

2PM EST



HepNET

Hepatitis Network for
Education and Testing

Sign Up for the HepNET Town Hall

NASTAD in partnership with National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR) and National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) are implementing and facilitating the Hepatitis Network for Education and Testing (HepNET). In collaboration, we will work with state and local health departments (LHDs), community-based organizations (CBOs), clinical providers, people with lived experience, syringe services programs (SSPs) and harm reduction programs, and other key partners to identify and address the unmet needs of people who inject drugs (PWID) and improve their access to viral hepatitis education, prevention, testing, linkage to care, and treatment.

Click the button below to register for the launch of HepNET on May 12.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Save The Date - HepNET Launches on May 12!

During our initial launch webinar, you will learn the following:

- What is HepNET?
- Who does HepNET work with and can I become part of that?
- Do I want to become a member and how will this support my viral hepatitis and harm reduction work?

Are there resources that would make it easier for you or your organization to address viral hepatitis for people who use drugs? What training or technical assistance topic(s) would you be interested in learning? What education medium would you find most helpful (e.g. webinars, toolkits, small group trainings)? Join the discussion with your fellow network members!

There will be an opportunity to ask questions live during the event. Questions may also be submitted in advance to hepatitis@nastad.org.

POLICY UPDATES

CDC Formally Adopts Universal Hepatitis B Vaccination For All Adults Ages 19-59. The adoption of this recommendation, which shifts CDC guidance from risk-based guidelines to a universal recommendation, moves the United States closer to our goal of eliminating viral hepatitis by stemming the tide in hepatitis B infections across the country, particularly for communities who have long been subjected to health inequities. Read NVHR Director of Policy Daniel Raymond's [full statement here](#).

President Biden Submits FY23 Budget Proposal, Calling for Historic Increase for CDC Division of Viral Hepatitis Budget. President Biden's FY 23 budget proposal includes a \$13.5 million increase for the CDC Division of Viral Hepatitis, a historic increase in year-over-year funding by percentage. In addition, the budget request calls for a new Vaccines for Adults (VFA) program and references harm reduction as a core element of the Biden-Harris Administration's drug strategy. Although the increased funding will help improve viral hepatitis testing and increase linkage to care, there remains a significant amount of work to be done to fully eliminate viral hepatitis in the United States. Read NVHR's full [statement](#).

2022 Viral Hepatitis Policy & Advocacy Summit Recap. This year, the Hepatitis Appropriations Partnership (HAP) convened a months-long series of virtual micro-summits to unpack the key policy issues facing the hepatitis community and spark meaningful conversations with federal partners, health department staff, hepatitis experts, and community advocates. [Click here](#) to view the full summary of activities and events, including recordings and accompanying materials.

Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day is April 30. With the recent finalizing of universal hepatitis B vaccination recommendations for adults aged 19-59, opportunities and challenges remain in scaling up HBV vaccination. Download Hepatitis B Foundation's [social media toolkit](#) and feel free to share the provided posts and graphics on your social media account.

National Hepatitis Testing Day is May 19. The goal of Hepatitis Testing Day is to help raise awareness of hepatitis B and hepatitis C and to encourage more individuals to learn their status. It is a day for people at risk for viral hepatitis to be tested, and for health care providers to educate patients about viral hepatitis and testing. Take action to support National Hepatitis Testing Day by [submitting a proclamation request](#) in your state and spreading the word on social media.

STAFF UPDATE



NVHR is excited to announce the hiring of **Kass Botts** as its new Coalition and Capacity Building Manager. In their role, Kass will lead the HepNET partnership with NASTAD and NACCHO, among other partnership projects.

Kass Botts is a drug user human rights activist living in Bloomington, Indiana, with a background in the Harm Reduction movement and community-based organizational leadership. They began their work in viral hepatitis elimination as the Executive Director of the Indiana Recovery Alliance, a drug user led Harm Reduction services organization. They are a member of the Region 9 Leadership Team for the Zero is Possible (ZIP) Coalition, a statewide initiative bringing together the essential people, tools, and resources to end the HIV epidemic and eliminate Hepatitis C (HCV) in Indiana. In 2021 they founded the Hoosier Harm Reduction Coalition, a statewide network of people who use drugs and other harm reduction stakeholders across the state of Indiana. Kass currently serves as the Board President of the Tennessee Recovery Alliance, another harm reduction services organization based in Knoxville, Tennessee. Kass has professional experience in marketing and communications, community based participatory action research, rural community engagement, and policy and advocacy. They are most passionate about community organizing, restorative and

transformative justice, and their work with the National Urban Survivor's Union toward drug user liberation.

FROM THE COMMUNITY



Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group: The Basics of Hepatitis C Educational Video & Training Program

Check out The Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group's (HCMSG) latest educational video: [The Basics of Hepatitis C](#). HCMSG has also released a new training on the basics of hepatitis C.

Following your participation you may be eligible for a \$15 food gift card to participating restaurants.

[Click Here to Participate](#)



Hep B United & CHIPO: Addressing Myths and Misconceptions about Hepatitis B among African Immigrant Communities around the United States

There are many myths surrounding various aspects of hepatitis B, including its prevalence, transmission, prevention, testing, severity, and treatment. During this webinar, we will explore some of the most widespread misconceptions, particularly in African communities around the United States, from a variety of perspectives, including those of healthcare providers and a community health practitioner. Confirmed speakers include Dr. Olorunseun Ogunwobi, Director at Hunter College Center for Cancer Health Disparities Research (CCHDR) in New York City; Dr. Ganiat Sarumi Disu, CEO, African Health Coalition in Chicago; and Mrs. Oluwatoyin Adedokun, a community health worker at African Health Coalition in Chicago.

Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 3:00 PM ET

[Register Here](#)



NVHR Monthly Grassroots Call: Training and Mentoring Advocates

Join NVHR for a discussion on training and mentoring advocates. Community Engagement Coordinator, Robin Lord Smith, will lead a conversation about lessons learned from advocacy trainings, including what training and mentorship strategies work well and what opportunities remain to engage advocates. We'll be joined by Rhea Racho from the Hepatitis B Foundation and Andrew Scott from the Global Liver Institute who will share about advocacy efforts in the viral hepatitis and broader liver communities.

Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 3:00 PM ET

[Register Here](#)



Hep B United & NASTAD: Universal Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Recommendations: Updates and Policy Impacts

NASTAD and the Hepatitis B Foundation are co-hosting this webinar in partnership with Hepatitis B United and Association of Immunization Managers with support from CDC's Division of Viral Hepatitis.

With the recent release of CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Universal Adult HBV Vaccination Recommendations, this webinar will highlight the importance of adult HBV vaccination as a national priority. We will discuss opportunities and challenges and share models of successful adult HBV vaccination scale up in high priority settings, both clinical and in community based organizations.

Monday, April 25, 2022 at 3:00PM ET

[Register Here](#)



Hepatitis B Foundation: Sharing Our Journey

Join HBF's "Sharing Our Journey," an interactive panel discussion about research, health equity, and the challenges and opportunities in the world of hepatitis B. The panel will focus on the future of hepatitis B research and the public health work necessary to prepare the world for a cure and save lives today.

Saturday, May 7, 2022 at Noon ET

[Register Here](#)



NASTAD: Viral Hepatitis Prevention and Surveillance Virtual Learning Collaborative (VLC) Prevention Session

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.

Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 3:00PM ET

[Register Here](#)



Empire Liver Foundation & CEI: Hepatitis C in People of Reproductive Age, Pregnancy and Children

This training is designed to educate clinical providers on current hepatitis C screening and treatment guidelines for people of reproductive age, pregnant people and children. Join more than 3,000 physicians, NPs, PAs, RNs and pharmacists in NYC, and nationally, who have benefited from Empire Liver Foundation's clinical education webinars.

Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 4:30PM ET

[Register Here](#)



CDC: Federal Register Notice Soliciting Comments on Proposed Hep B Screening Recommendations

On April 4, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published a Federal Register Notice (FRN) #CDC-2022-07050 to obtain comment on proposed hepatitis B screening and testing recommendations. The recommendations supplement CDC's 2008 screening recommendations by including hepatitis B screening at least once in a lifetime for adults aged 18 years and older, using a three-test panel. Screening with three tests can help identify persons who have a current HBV infection, have resolved infection and who may be susceptible to reactivation, are susceptible and need vaccination, or are vaccinated.

The Federal Register Notice will be open for public comment for 60 days and closes on **June 3, 2022**. To review, please click below and enter "CDC-2022-0044" in the search bar.

CDC will host a webinar on April 20, 2022, at 2pm ET to present an overview of the proposed recommendations. [Registration](#) is required.

Comments Due by Friday, June 3, 2022

[Submit A Comment Here](#)

LATEST NEWS

Beaver County Times: [What can Pennsylvania do to improve its C grade for Hep C elimination, prevention?](#)

HepVu: [Leading Viral Hepatitis Groups Launch the Hep ElimiNATION Project](#)

HepMag: [The Need for Additional Funding to Achieve Viral Hepatitis Elimination](#)

NPR: [Teen drug overdose deaths rose sharply in 2020, driven by fentanyl-laced pills](#)

Nature: [Facing the challenge of eliminating hepatitis B](#)

Contagion Live: [Accessible, Nonstigmatizing Care Clinic Had Better Hepatitis C Outcomes](#)

Pharmacy Times: [Hepatitis C Is Widespread but Rarely Treated in Postpartum Medicaid Beneficiaries With OUD](#)

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