



# Viral Hepatitis Newsletter

## December

### Spotlight



#### New Years Resolution: Encouraging Testing

The approach of a new year can feel like a new beginning to many. If you participate in setting resolutions for the new year, consider setting a goal of encouraging clients to get tested for HIV, sexually transmitted infections, and hepatitis B and C. It is possible to have HIV, sexually transmitted infections, or viral hepatitis without experiencing any noticeable symptoms. Have your clients visit <https://gettested.cdc.gov/> to find a testing location near them!

### In the Community

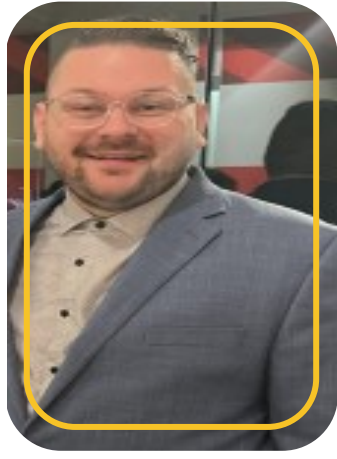
#### American Liver Foundation

The American Liver Foundation has provided open access to a webinar that focuses on nutrition and liver health as part of the LIVE FIT. LIVER FIT. GET FIT. series. The webinar presenter, Bethany Doerfler MS, RDN, is a clinical research dietitian in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Northwestern University. She speaks on how diet affects the liver and shares health tips that can be applied to everyday routines to keep your liver working for you.

To watch the webinar recording: [CLICK THIS LINK](#)

#### World AIDS Day

On Dec. 1, the Indiana Department of Health, HIV/STI and Viral Hepatitis Division observed World AIDS Day, an annual event of remembrance for those who have been lost to AIDS, and re-commitment to ending HIV and HIV-related stigma. There is a direct connection between HIV and hepatitis C, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), with 21% of people with HIV also having hepatitis C. Having HIV and hepatitis C more than triples the odds of liver disease, liver failure, and liver-related death. Visit <https://gettested.cdc.gov/> to find a testing location near you.



#### Community Spotlight

On Nov. 15, Serve Indiana hosted an awards event to honor Hoosiers for their outstanding volunteerism and service efforts. Step-Up's HepLink Care Coordinator, Joey Beyers, was nominated for the 2023 Serve Indiana Award.

Congratulations, Joey!

### Referral Database

#### Are you a provider of HIV, STI or viral hepatitis services or treatment?

If your organization provides HIV, STI and viral hepatitis testing, prevention services, support services, capacity building, treatment, or care, check to see if your organization is included in the [GetTested.cdc.gov](https://gettested.cdc.gov) referral database.

CDC's [GetTested.cdc.gov](https://gettested.cdc.gov) is a searchable database that houses the information of organizations and facilities across the country that aim to support prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, STIs, and TB.

Having an up-to-date and complete database helps us all.

### Educational Resources

#### Hepatitis C ECHO Trainings

Extension for Community Healthcare Outcome (ECHO) is a collaborative program that uses technology to provide case-based learning to improve access to high-quality treatment for hepatitis B and C. On the web-based platform, participants share knowledge with others, connect to specialists, and participate in discussions, and medical experts provide recommendations to enhance the mastery of topics.

The Hepatitis C ECHO meets online on the first and third Thursdays of month from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

To register for the Hepatitis C ECHO: [CLICK THIS LINK](#)

#### IN-HAMP

Indiana Hepatitis Academic Mentorship Program (IN-HAMP) is a medical education training program for clinicians who are new to treating hepatitis C. The IN-HAMP program includes two 1.5-hour long hepatitis C ECHO sessions, Cycle 1 training and preparation for clinicians to treat individuals living with hepatitis C, and Cycle 2 that covers advanced topics in hepatitis C care.

If you are a clinician and interested in learning more about IN-HAMP, email [inhamp@iu.edu](mailto:inhamp@iu.edu) or enroll in Cycle 1 and Cycle 2. The next Cycle 1 training will occur on Thursday, March 21, 2024. To register, [CLICK THIS LINK](#).

If you attended IN-HAMP Cycle 1 training, and are interested in joining Cycle 2 training, please email [jennwatk@iu.edu](mailto:jennwatk@iu.edu).

At the conclusion of the training, clinicians will have the tools and education to begin treating hepatitis C immediately.

### 2024 Case Investigation Updates

#### New fields for viral hepatitis B and C investigations

The Viral Hepatitis Team at IDOH have included new demographic and risk factor questions to the hepatitis B and hepatitis C investigations in NBS. These new questions will allow for the capture of more data to help define populations and classify investigations. Some of the additional questions and fields include:

- Did the patient receive an organ or tissue transplant?
- Did the patient experience homelessness and/or unstable housing?
- Has the patient ever shared drug use equipment (syringes, cookers, etc.)?
- Patient Birth Sex
- Transgender Information

Look at the 'Patient' and 'Hepatitis Extended' tabs in NBS for these new questions beginning in 2024.

#### Updated hepatitis B case definition

In 2023, the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) approved a new hepatitis B case definition. Prior, the hepatitis B case definition had not been updated since 2012. This updated definition will alter what labs and clinical criteria are used to classify hepatitis B acute and chronic cases. Please visit the [CSTE website](#) to review the updated statement and the changes that are coming. This updated definition will be used beginning in 2024 case investigation data.

The Viral Hepatitis Team at IDOH will offer trainings in the new year that will cover the basics of the various hepatitis viruses, IDOH's HCV services and care coordinators, and how to classify viral hepatitis investigations in NBS. If you are interested in joining this training or have questions, please contact Jena Rasor at [JRasor@health.in.gov](mailto:JRasor@health.in.gov).

To promote, protect, and improve the health and safety of all Hoosiers

