OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO ADULT HEPATITIS B VACCINATION

April 30, 2020 @ 3 - 4:15 PM EDT

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The **Hepatitis B Foundation** is the only national nonprofit organization dedicated to finding a cure and improving the quality of life for those affected by hepatitis B worldwide.

- Outreach and Education
- Public Health Research
- National Advocacy

**Baruch S. Blumberg Research Institute**

- Biomedical Research
Hep B United is a national coalition, established and co-chaired by HBF and AAPCHO, 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.

- 40+ partners in 20 states and DC
- Collectively screen over 20,000 people each year
- Voices for local and national advocacy
- Co-brand the multi-lingual Know Hepatitis B campaign with CDC
Thank You to Our Partners & Co-Hosts

AVAC
ADULT VACCINE ACCESS COALITION

AAPCHO
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations

THE AIDS INSTITUTE

NVHR
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable

HEP
HEPATITIS EDUCATION PROJECT

NASTAD
Background

- Modern hepatitis B vaccine was introduced in 1985
  - Widely used and among the safest and most effective vaccines in the world
  - Requires 3 doses over 6 months

- New 2-dose vaccine was approved in 2017
  - Highly effective in populations that may be harder to vaccinate
  - Requires only 2 doses over 1 month

- Yet, the overall adult HBV vaccination rate remains at only 25%
Background

- From 2006 to 2018, increases in reported cases of acute HBV infection ranged from 56% to 457% in states heavily impacted by the opioid crisis.

- 1 in 4 individuals with unmanaged chronic HBV will develop cirrhosis, liver failure, or liver cancer – the 2nd deadliest cancer in the U.S., with a 5-year survival rate of only 18%.

- Hepatitis B is the #1 cause of liver cancer globally.
Background

- **National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day** was proposed on April 30, 2019 by companion resolutions:
    - Co-chairs of the Congressional Hepatitis Caucus
  - S.Res. 177, introduced by Sen. Mazie Hirono (HI) and Sen. Angus King (ME)

- The resolutions recognize the importance of:
  - increasing HBV testing, vaccination and linkage to care;
  - encouraging a commitment to increasing adult HBV vaccination rates and maintaining childhood HBV vaccination rates;
  - and promoting greater awareness among providers and the general public
COVID-19 Considerations

- Monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on people living with viral hepatitis

- Strengthening and enhancing immunization infrastructure in the context of COVID-19
  - In preparation for a forthcoming COVID-19 vaccine, we must simultaneously ensure that our health system can effectively manage ongoing routine vaccination efforts, such as HBV and flu

- Securing funding from Congress for the CDC to ensure state and local public health agencies can prepare for and carry out mass vaccination
  - Resources for Immunization Information Systems (IIS) enhancements that will allow for accelerated and expanded provider registration, vaccine distribution, vaccine accountability, dose administered reporting, patient recall if a second dose is needed, and adverse event tracking
  - Resources for additional staffing needed to onboard providers and assure orderly vaccine distribution that is consistent and targeted to priority populations

- Continued messaging around the importance of routine preventive health and standards of immunization care to address existing gaps in vaccine confidence and trust in vaccines
Calls to Action: Congressional Asks

- Join the Congressional Hepatitis Caucus
- Support the National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day resolutions: H.Res. 331 and S.Res. 177
- Increase CDC funding for viral hepatitis programs and for infectious disease consequences of the opioid epidemic
- Improve collaboration and coordination of federal efforts around adult vaccination – programs and resources to support education and awareness (including among health care providers), testing, vaccination, and linkage to care
Calls to Action: Community Advocacy

- Join our grassroots network to receive policy updates; federal, state, and local advocacy news; and action alerts (http://www.hepbunited.org/advocacy)

- Check out our new blog post to learn more about adult hepatitis B vaccination – and stay tuned for more info about HBF’s new prevention policy program!

- Use our social media toolkit and the hashtags #AdultHepBVaxDay and #BVaccinated to help raise awareness

- Know your hepatitis B status – get tested and get vaccinated if you’re not already protected!
Thank You!

Connect with us at info@hepb.org or connect@hepbunited.org