

Philadelphia Biweekly PHP Outreach Newsletter

Philadelphia Department of Public Health

The Latest News

- **Philadelphia working to eliminate viral hepatitis B and C**
 - Viral hepatitis affects millions of people worldwide.
 - The most common types of viral hepatitis infections are hepatitis A, B, and C.
 - Hepatitis A is usually a short-term infection, but B and C can become chronic, lifelong infections. All three are preventable and treatable.
 - About five percent of Philadelphia residents have a past or current hepatitis A, B, or C infection. Many people are unaware of their infection.
 - The Viral Hepatitis Program works to prevent and address hepatitis B and C by:
 - Measuring their incidence and prevalence in Philadelphia.
 - Working with the medical community to improve reporting, clinical, and prevention activities.
 - Promoting best practices for people who have hepatitis A, B, or C to get tested, linked to care, kept in care, treated, and cured.
 - Coordinating case management to reduce and address transmission from mothers to babies.
 - More information about hepatitis B in FAQ below and at: <https://bit.ly/ViralHepPHL>

Extreme Heat: Resources and Services

- **Community Response Partner Network (CRPN)**
 - Be the first to know when Philly had a heat caution or heat emergency.
 - Get the latest information on services and resources to stay safe in extreme heat.
 - Sign up here!: publichealthpreparedness@phila.gov
- **Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA) Helpline: 215-765-9040**
 - During a Heat Health Emergency, the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA) operates a call center for people to get heat safety tips, resources and speak with Health Department nurses.
- **Philadelphia Extreme Heat Guide: www.phila.gov/heat**
 - Explore who is at risk, how to stay safe, why it is getting hotter and resources.
 - A one stop shop for everything about extreme heat in the City of Philadelphia.

Public Health Preparedness: Resources and Services

- **Sign up for Ready Philadelphia**
 - To receive free text alerts to your phone on emergencies or severe weather, text "ReadyPhila" to 888-7777.
 - Be the first to know, then spread the word to family and neighbors.
- **Text-to-911 in Philadelphia: <https://bit.ly/PATextTo911>**
 - Individuals who are Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, and those who face communication barriers may find this service a more accessible means of interface with 911.

Frequently Asked Questions on Hepatitis B

- **How big of a problem is viral hepatitis?**
 - The World Health Organization estimates that in 2019, 296 million people were living with hepatitis B and 58 million people were living with hepatitis C.

- People from African, Asian, and Eastern European nations are disproportionately affected by these infections.
- Without treatment, people with hepatitis B and hepatitis C face health issues such as chronic illness and liver cancer, and even death.
- **What is hepatitis B?**
 - Hepatitis B is a liver infection. Most people don't have symptoms, but the infection can cause pain under your ribs, fever, jaundice (yellow skin/eyes), and dark yellow urine.
 - Long term infections, if left untreated, can result in liver damage and death.
 - Hepatitis B is the leading cause of liver cancer worldwide.
- **How is hepatitis B spread?**
 - When sharing personal items including razors, toothbrushes, and nail clippers.
 - Between sexual partners.
 - From parent to child during childbirth.
 - When sharing injection equipment, including syringes.
- **How to stay safe from Hepatitis B?**
 - Get vaccinated!
 - Visit your doctor, a City Health Center, pharmacy, or a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), and ask for your hepatitis B vaccine.
 - Find a Primary Care Provider at: www.phila.gov/primarycare
 - Use a new injection, snorting, or smoking equipment when using drugs.
 - Practice safer sex (regular STD tests, condoms).
 - Cover cuts carefully and avoid sharing personal items (razors, earrings, etc.).
- **More information available at:** <https://bit.ly/ViralHepPHL>

PDPH Information

- **PDPH COVID-19 website and social media**
 - Information on the ending of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declarations: <https://bit.ly/PHEendPHL>
 - Latest information from PDPH : phila.gov/COVID, facebook.com/phillyhealth and [twitter](https://twitter.com)
- **PDPH Call Center**
 - Information on City public health guidance, services, resources, and more.
 - Call 215-685-5488, press 3 for interpretation in your language, press 2 for Spanish. Dial 711 for TRS/TTY assistance.

How to Stay Connected

- **Join the Community Response Partner Network**
 - This newsletter is sent to the [Community Response Partner Network](#), part of the PDPH Public Health Preparedness Program.
 - Sign up at <https://bit.ly/phlcommunityresponse> to get essential public health information, then pass it on to your family, friends, and community.
- **Questions or suggestions?**
 - Email us at publichealthpreparedness@phila.gov
 - Leave a message with the Public Health Preparedness Program Outreach Team at 215-429-3016.

Be safe.