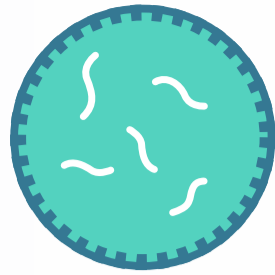


# World Hepatitis Day 2016

## Viral hepatitis

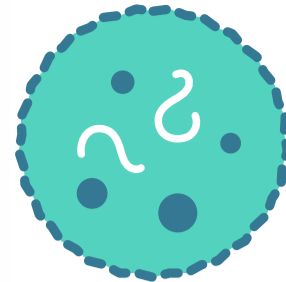
Viral hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver caused by infection with a hepatitis virus.



**Hepatitis A virus** is highly contagious and usually spreads through contaminated food or water. It can also be transmitted through direct contact with an infectious person.

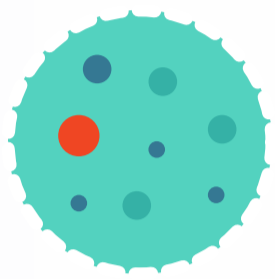
Hepatitis A frequently shows no symptoms or results in mild illness, particularly in children but severity increases with age. Most people make a full recovery and acquire lifelong immunity.

Safe and effective vaccines against hepatitis A are available.



**Hepatitis B virus** is spread through bodily fluids or blood products and can result in acute or chronic illness. Many of those who are infected have no symptoms and are unaware of the disease. The virus can cause liver cirrhosis and cancer.

There are safe and effective vaccines, and treatment for chronic hepatitis B is available.



**Hepatitis C virus** is transmitted when blood from a person infected with the hepatitis C virus enters the body of someone who is not infected, which can cause acute or chronic illness. Many of those who are infected show no symptoms and are unaware of the disease. Hepatitis C infection can cause liver cirrhosis and cancer.

There is no vaccine against hepatitis C but effective treatment is available.

## Is Europe ready to eliminate viral hepatitis?

In order to eliminate viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030, Europe needs to focus on testing, treatment and surveillance.



### Testing

More testing to identify those who might be unknowingly infected with viral hepatitis.



### Treatment

More treatment programmes for hepatitis B and C across Europe. Increased coverage of local prevention and control measures to interrupt existing transmission chains and reduce morbidity and mortality.

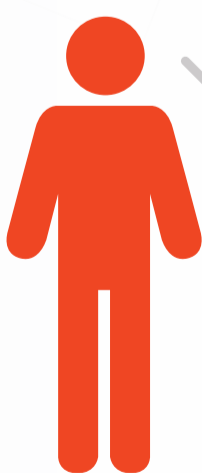


### Disease surveillance

Improved surveillance systems to better understand the local burden of viral hepatitis.

## A 90% reduction of new cases of chronic hepatitis

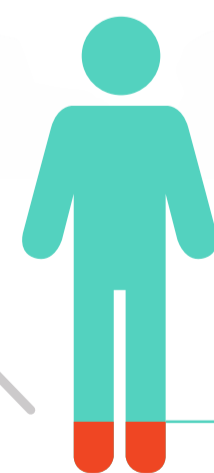
WHO global hepatitis target for 2030



2015

By 2030, the incidence of chronic hepatitis infection will have been **reduced by 90%** and there will be universal access to key prevention and treatment services

— World Health Organization, *Global health sector strategy on viral hepatitis 2016–2021*



2030

**10%**



ECDC, Stockholm, 2016.

ECDC coordinates the surveillance for hepatitis A, B and C to help EU countries assess the hepatitis disease burden, evaluate existing prevention and control strategies, and to define epidemiological trends or transmission patterns.

The ECDC *Programme for HIV, Sexually Transmitted Infections and viral Hepatitis* covers chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV/AIDS. The Programme works together with experts in the EU/EEA Member States, the European Commission, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, the WHO Regional Office for Europe, UNAIDS and many non-governmental organisations.