



State Viral Hepatitis Coordinator Engagement Toolkit

Engagement with state viral hepatitis coordinators is a useful way to stay involved in the development and execution of robust policy and programmatic strategies that will lead to viral hepatitis elimination in your state. The toolkit below provides best practices and linked resources for reaching out to your state or city's viral hepatitis coordinator to raise awareness of the importance of a comprehensive elimination plan.

Why Contact Your Coordinator

In the fight against hepatitis, developing state-specific plans for prevention, testing and linkage to care is critical, given that each state faces its own unique challenges and opportunities. As jurisdictions develop elimination plans to meet the World Health Organization's goal to eliminate viral hepatitis by 2030, it is imperative that the people who are impacted by viral hepatitis inform the strategies for elimination. Connecting with your state or city's viral hepatitis coordinator is an opportunity to directly engage with people who are developing those strategies.

Tips for Engagement

1. **Identify your Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator.** In the appendix on Page 3 of this document, you will find contact information for prevention coordinators within each jurisdiction and several large cities. You can also find a list of prevention coordinators at the [CDC website](#).
2. **Send your coordinator an email.** Let your coordinator know that you are interested in working with them on elimination planning in your state, and where your expertise may be most beneficial in helping to develop policies and strategies. Offer to schedule a meeting or phone call with them.
3. **Email NVHR at info@nvhr.org if you have any questions or would like to learn more about how Hep ElimiNATION can support your efforts.** Hep ElimiNATION is an advocacy tool to bring awareness to policymakers, public health agencies, and communities about a broad range of key considerations for elimination – and will hopefully be useful in identifying gaps or opportunity areas in developing comprehensive state elimination strategies.
4. **Check out the [Hep ElimiNATION website](#) for your jurisdiction's grade and additional materials to help your advocacy work!** Our website provides grades and rubrics for each state, as well as educational and promotional materials to help you identify your state's strengths and weaknesses in viral hepatitis elimination.

Sample Letter to Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator

Dear [INSERT COORDINATOR NAME],

My name is [INSERT YOUR NAME] and I am a [PATIENT/PROVIDER/COMMUNITY] Advocate in [INSERT CITY/STATE]. I would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with you on increasing our state's readiness to meet the World Health Organization's goal to eliminate viral hepatitis by 2030.

As you are aware, viral hepatitis is a serious, yet largely preventable condition that impacts over 5 million Americans, many of whom do not know they are living with it. The United States overall is losing ground on the fight against viral hepatitis. New infections have spiked due to the ongoing opioid and stimulant use epidemics, while treatment rates for hepatitis C have declined between 2014 and 2020.

According to Hep ElimiNATION, a recently released project that grades jurisdictions' capacity to eliminate viral hepatitis by 2030, [INSERT STATE] received a [INSERT LETTER GRADE]. I'm reaching out to ask how we can work together to strengthen our state's grade. Are there opportunities to get involved with viral hepatitis elimination planning or other efforts?

I recognize that all states have unique challenges and barriers to viral hepatitis elimination, which have been exacerbated by limited resources and the COVID-19 pandemic. I appreciate all that you have done and continue to do to improve the lives of people living with viral hepatitis in our state.

Please let me know if you would like to schedule a time to discuss further, and I look forward to hearing back from you on this matter.

Sincerely,

[INSERT NAME]

APPENDIX: List of State Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinators

Health Department	Jurisdiction	First Name	Last Name	Email
Alabama Department of Public Health	Alabama	Ronada	Anderson	ronada.anderson@adph.state.al.us
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services	Alaska	Rebekah	Porter	rebekah.porter@alaska.gov
Arizona Department of Health Services	Arizona	Arlis	Jenkins	arlis.jenkins@azdhs.gov
Arkansas Department of Health	Arkansas	Zuakernah	Belo	zuakernah.belo@arkansas.gov
Baltimore City Health Department	Maryland	Jaeson	Smith	Jaeson.Smith@Baltimorecity.gov
California Department of Public Health	California	Rachel	McLean	Rachel.McLean@cdph.ca.gov
Chicago Department of Public Health	Illinois	Nakia	Jones	Nakia.jones@cityofchicago.org
Chicago Department of Public Health	Illinois	Saul	Ayala	saul.ayala@cityofchicago.org
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment	Colorado	Ashley	Loveless	Ashley.loveless@state.co.us
Connecticut Department of Public Health	Connecticut	Marianne	Buchelli	marianne.buchelli@ct.gov
Dallas County Health Department	Texas	Suzanne	Wada	Suzanne.Wada@dallascounty.org
Dallas County Health Department	Texas	Samantha	Salic	samantha.salic@dallascounty.org
DC Department of Health	DC	Nestor	Rocha	Nestor.Rocha@dc.gov
Delaware Division of Public Health	Delaware	Victoria	Bowler	Victoria.bowler@delaware.gov
Florida Department of Health	Florida	Craig	Wilson	Craig.Wilson@flhealth.gov
Georgia Department of Public Health	Georgia	Shayna	Jefferson-Williams	Shayna.Jefferson-Williams@dph.ga.gov
Hawai'i Department of Health	Hawaii	Thaddeus	Pham	thaddeus.pham@doh.hawaii.gov
Houston Health Department	Texas	Beau	Mitts	beau.mitts@houstontx.gov
Houston Health Department	Texas	Jon-Michael	Gillispie	Jon-Michael.Gillispie@houstontx.gov
Idaho Department of Health and Welfare	Idaho	Kimberly	Matulonis-Edgar	Kimberly.Matulonis-Edgar@dhw.idaho.gov

Illinois Department of Public Health	Illinois	Andrea	Perez	Andrea.Perez@Illinois.gov
Indiana State Department of Health	Indiana	Seth	Thomas	SeThomas@isdh.in.gov
Iowa Department of Public Health	Iowa	Biz	McChesney	biz.mcchesney@idph.iowa.gov
Kansas Department of Health and Environment	Kansas	Debra (Debbie)	Guibault	Debra.Guibault@ks.gov
Kentucky Department for Public Health	Kentucky	Dia	Obonyo	dia.obonyo@ky.gov
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	California	Prabhu	Gounder	Pgounder@ph.lacounty.gov
Louisiana Department of Health	Louisiana	Anthony	James	Anthony.James@la.gov
Maine Department of Health and Human Services	Maine	Lauren	Gauthier	lauren.gauthier@maine.gov
Maryland Department of Health	Maryland	Odetta	Dodson	odetta.dodson@maryland.gov
Massachusetts Department of Public Health	Massachusetts	Liisa	Randall	liisa.randall@mass.gov
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services	Michigan	Teresa	Wong	wongt@michigan.gov
Minnesota Department of Health	Minnesota	Dan-Tam	Phan-Hoang	dan-tam.phan-hoang@state.mn.us
Mississippi State Department of Health	Mississippi	Melody	Winston	melody.winston@msdh.ms.gov
Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services	Missouri	Alicia	Jenkins	Alicia.Jenkins@health.mo.gov
Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services	Montana	Shannon	Koenig	skoenig2@mt.gov
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services	Nebraska	Gwen	Hurst	Gwen.Hurst@nebraska.gov

Nevada Department of Health and Human Service	Nevada	Elizabeth	Kessler	ekessler@health.nv.gov
New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services	New Hampshire	Krissy	Nikitas	kristine.nikitas@dhhs.nh.gov
New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services	New Hampshire	Bronwyn	Barnett	Bronwyn.M.Barnett@dhhs.nh.gov
New Jersey Department of Health	New Jersey	Laura	Taylor	laura.taylor@doh.nj.gov
New Mexico Department of Health	New Mexico	Josh	Swatek	Joshua.swatek@state.nm.us
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	New York	Umaima	Khatun	ukhatun@health.nyc.gov
New York State Department of Health	New York	Colleen	Flanigan	colleen.flanigan@health.ny.gov
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services	North Carolina	Christie	Caputo	Christina.Caputo@dhhs.nc.gov
North Dakota Department of Health	North Dakota	Sarah	Weninger	sweninger@nd.gov
Ohio Department of Health	Ohio	Karen (Ren)	Nicosia	karen.nicosia@odh.ohio.gov
Oklahoma State Department of Health	Oklahoma	Atonbara (AJ)	Sowemimo	AtonbaraS@health.ok.gov
Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division	Oregon	Jude	Leahy	judith.m.leahy@dhsaha.state.or.us
Pennsylvania Department of Health	Pennsylvania	Lauren	Orkis	laorkis@pa.gov
Philadelphia Department of Public Health	Pennsylvania	Melissa	Hobkirk	Melissa.hobkirk@phila.gov
Rhode Island Department of Health	Rhode Island	Katharine	Howe	Katharine.Howe@health.ri.gov

San Francisco Department of Public Health	California	Rachel	Grinstein	rachel.grinstein@sfdph.org
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control	South Carolina	Zakiya	Grubbs	grubbsz@dhec.sc.gov
Tennessee Department of Health	Tennessee	Shamia	Roberts	Shamia.Roberts@tn.gov
Texas Department of State Health Services	Texas	Vittoria	Criss	Vittoria.Criss1@dshs.texas.gov
Utah Department of Health	Utah	Amelia	Salmanson	asalmanson@utah.gov
Vermont Department of Health	Vermont	Kelly	Bachiochi	Kelly.Bachiochi@vermont.gov
Virginia Department of Health	Virginia	Felencia	McGee	Felencia.mcgee@vdh.virginia.gov
Washington State Department of Health	Washington	Emalie	Huriaux	emalie.huriaux@doh.wa.gov
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources	West Virginia	Neal	Kerley	neal.r.kerley@wv.gov
Wisconsin Department of Health Services	Wisconsin	Kailynn	Mitchell	Kailynn.Mitchell@dhs.wisconsin.gov
Wyoming Department of Health	Wyoming	Leslie	Fowler	leslie.fowler@wyo.gov