



# Viral Hepatitis Prevention Board (VHPB)



Universiteit  
Antwerpen



# VHPB

More than **28** years active in the control  
and prevention of viral hepatitis in  
Europe



# VHPB mission

## Mission statement

The objective of VHPB is to contribute to the **control** and **prevention** of **viral hepatitis**:

- by drawing the attention to this important public health problem
- by issuing prevention and control guidance and catalyse the development of recommendations.
- by encouraging actions to improve control, prevention and elimination.

All activities are in line with **viral hepatitis elimination goals** defined by **WHO** Global strategy

**Focus audiences** are, in first instance, opinion leaders, policymakers, public health and health care professionals



# Activities: Two meetings a year

- 1. Technical meeting:** discuss, review and issue guidelines or recommendations for critical issues in viral hepatitis
- 2. Country meeting:**
  - Understand strategies and programs to control viral hepatitis in the country
  - Create awareness in the country for hepatitis as a public health problem
  - Create a platform where people of the country involved in viral hepatitis can discuss and can start future initiatives
  - Verify the WHO elimination targets and monitor the progress
  - Initiate or accelerate the development of National viral hepatitis plan
  - Draft guidelines to support countries based on lessons learned from other countries

# Meetings - Way of working

## VHPB advisors



Meeting topics- countries  
Objectives – meeting outcome

Literature –web review



Draft agenda

Potential speakers

Potential participants



VHPB TECHNICAL MEETING  
+++Online+++  
**The impact of COVID-19 on the  
(1) prevention of viral hepatitis  
(2) 2030 WHO elimination goals**  
18 & 25 March 2021 – 16h30 until 20h00  
Draft MEETING agenda

- MEETING OBJECTIVES**
- The impact of COVID-19 on the prevention of viral hepatitis
- Evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on National/regional vaccination and prevention programs for viral hepatitis
  - Discuss how increasing vaccine hesitancy due to the pandemic may endanger the high coverage rates of hepatitis B vaccination
  - Evaluate lessons learnt from existing catch-up programmes
  - Discuss the scale up of the public health needs to improve prevention and immunization of viral hepatitis which were negatively influenced by the pandemic
- The impact of COVID-19 on the viral hepatitis elimination goals
- Evaluate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on viral hepatitis, screening, control & treatment in Europe
  - What is the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on the elimination goals, regionally and on country level
  - Review the possible implementation of control measures, new prevention strategies and monitoring systems during and after a pandemic, lessons learnt.
  - Assess the (extra) needs to achieve the goal of eliminating viral hepatitis as a major public health threat in Europe by 2030 as defined by WHO's Regional office for Europe. Discuss successes, issues and the new challenges

part1 The impact of COVID-19 on the prevention and vaccination of viral hepatitis

Thursday 18 March 2021

**Introduction of the participants**  
Chair: Greet Hendricks

16:30-17:00	Welcome and opening of the meeting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome and opening</li> <li>Introduction of the participants</li> </ul>

**Session 1.1: COVID-19 impact on hepatitis prevention in risk groups**  
Chair: Morke Korenajt

17:00-17:40	How is the pandemic affecting harm reduction services working on HIV, hepatitis and STIs
	Pre-recorded
	<a href="#">Discussion in HIV, hepatitis and STI services due to Covid</a>
	Nicole Segau (WHO)
	<b>EMCCDA</b>
	Impact of COVID-19 on harm reduction services
	16:06
	Jane Mountney (head of public health EMCCDA)
	<b>Correlation Network</b>
	How harm reduction must go on – focusing on hepatitis
	Pre-recorded
	Eberhard Schatz (C-EHRN)

This is a draft version of the VHPB meeting agenda, not all proposed speakers confirmed yet





VHPB TECHNICAL MEETING

+++Online+++

# The changing context of Hepatitis Delta

**28-29 October 2021** – 16h00 until 19h00

MEETING agenda



# Meeting objectives

- **MEETING OBJECTIVES**

- Provide an overview of the current epidemiology of hepatitis Delta and discuss potential associated risk factors (e.g. HIV & Migrants from endemic countries)
- (New) Diagnostic tools and screening recommendations for hepatitis Delta
- Discuss the prevention of hepatitis Delta
- Discuss treatment and control of hepatitis Delta
- Discuss the public health impact of hepatitis Delta and the arguments to include hepatitis Delta in the WHO's elimination goals or not
- As hepatitis Delta is an opportunistic infection to HBV, discussing HBV related issues is not excluded from the program

# Meeting practical

- After the presentation you may ask question
- To facilitate the discussion
  - If you have question “raise your hand”
  - Switch on your camera
  - Chair will allow you to intervene
  - Unmute
  - Introduce yourself shortly

