

# World Hepatitis Day 2018

Viral hepatitis B and C are major health challenges, affecting 325 million people globally. They are root causes of liver cancer, leading to 1.34 million deaths every year.

Hepatitis B and C are chronic infections that may not show symptoms for a long period, sometimes years or decades. At least 60% of liver cancer cases are due to late testing and treatment of viral hepatitis B and C. Low coverage of testing and treatment is the most important gap to be addressed in order to achieve the global elimination goals by 2030.

WHO will focus on the theme: "Test. Treat. Hepatitis" for World Hepatitis Day 2018 events. WHO events and activities can aim to achieve the following objectives globally, in regions and in countries:

- To support scale-up of hepatitis prevention, testing, treatment and care services, with specific focus on promoting WHO testing and treatment recommendations;
- To showcase best practices and promote universal health coverage of hepatitis services; and
- To improve partnerships and funding in the fight against viral hepatitis

Timely testing and treatment of viral hepatitis B and C can save lives.

## 10 things to know about viral hepatitis

1. Viral hepatitis B and C are major health challenges
2. Viral hepatitis B and C are root causes of liver cancer
3. Timely testing and treatment of viral hepatitis B and C can save lives
4. Viral hepatitis causes debilitating diseases and also places a huge economic burden on families
5. Viral hepatitis has become a major killer due to a lack of global attention
6. Over the past 15 years, more and more people have been dying of viral hepatitis
7. At the same time, people are becoming newly infected with hepatitis
8. Hepatitis attacks the most vulnerable
9. Hepatitis can be prevented, diagnosed, treated and even cured
10. You can help eliminate hepatitis

### References:

<http://www.who.int/who-campaigns/world-hepatitis-day/2018>