



Join us in observing [National Hepatitis Awareness Month](#) in May! This is a time to highlight the importance of screening and vaccination to protect against viral hepatitis. During this pandemic, it has been especially challenging for patients to get caught up on recommended screenings and vaccination, so now is the time promote these during visits!

In the U.S., the most common types of viral hepatitis are hepatitis A, B, and C. Hepatitis A and B can be prevented through safe and effective vaccines, and hepatitis C is curable

with prescribed treatment. Testing is the only way to see if patients are infected with hepatitis A, B, or C.

May 19 is Hepatitis Testing Day. Primary care providers in California are now required to offer screening tests to adult patients meeting United States Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF) [risk criteria](#):

- [Hepatitis C](#) – age 18 – 79 years
- [Hepatitis B](#) – born in countries with prevalence of HBV infections $\geq 2\%$ and others [at risk for infection](#). [Most Californians reported with chronic hepatitis B infections have been born in Asia or the Pacific Islands](#). The CDC [hepatitis B serology guide](#) has information about testing and interpretation of test results.

Patients whose testing indicates hepatitis B or C infection should be referred for follow-up care with their primary care provider or liver specialist. Those who test negative for hepatitis B and have not been previously vaccinated should be offered hepatitis B vaccination.

The federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has [updated hepatitis B](#) vaccination **expanding recommendation to all adults 19-59 years old regardless of risk factors** as part of the [2022 Adult Immunization Schedule](#).

Here are resources to help educate your patients on viral hepatitis and promote preventive measures of screening and vaccination within your clinics:

- [ABCs of viral hepatitis](#)
- [Hepatitis B vaccine timing guide](#)
- [CDC Health care Notification and Testing Toolkit](#)
- [Social Media Toolkit](#)

Thank you for helping keep your patients healthy and safe from viral hepatitis!