

Every year on July 28, World Hepatitis Day is observed to raise public awareness of viral hepatitis, which causes inflammation of the liver and can result in serious illness and liver cancer.

A new wave of unexplained acute hepatitis infections in children is presently engulfing the globe. Scientists and decision-makers in the afflicted nations along with the World health organization (WHO) identify the source of this infection, which does not appear to be caused by any of the five kinds of hepatitis viruses that are currently known: A to E.

Global initiatives place a high priority on eliminating hepatitis B, C, and D infections. Contrary to acute viral hepatitis, these 3 infections result in chronic hepatitis that lasts for years and eventually leads to cirrhosis and liver cancer, which cause over 1 million deaths



## Fact Sheet

- 1,100,000 deaths per year is caused by Hepatitis B and C infections
- 9,400,000 people are receiving treatment for chronic hepatitis C infection
- 10% of people who have chronic infection with Hepatitis B virus are diagnosed and 22% of which reduce treatment
  - 42% of children, globally have access to the birth dose of the Hepatitis B vaccine.

annually. Over 95% of hepatitis fatalities are brought on by these 3 forms of chronic hepatitis infections. Although we have the knowledge and resources to identify, manage, and prevent chronic viral hepatitis, these treatments are frequently unavailable to communities and occasionally only provided in centralized/specialized facilities.

## What next?

To improve access to care for individuals with hepatitis, regardless of the kind of hepatitis they may have, WHO is emphasizing the need to bring hepatitis care closer to primary healthcare facilities and communities on World Hepatitis Day 2022.

By 2030, WHO hopes to eliminate hepatitis. WHO proposes that countries meet certain objectives to get there:

- Ensure that at least 90% of individuals with the hepatitis B and C virus are detected;
- Reduce new hepatitis B and C infections by 90%;
- Reduce hepatitis-related deaths from liver cirrhosis and cancer by 65 percent, and
- Ensure that at least 80% of those who are eligible receive adequate treatment.