

Hepatitis C Virus - Resources for health care providers

If you have patients or clients diagnosed with Hepatitis C Virus (HCV), review the following testing and treatment protocols recommended by public health.

Testing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange for Hepatitis C RNA (PCR) testing (if not already done)* • Refer to the Hepatitis C Testing Guide available on BCCDC's website for more information <p>*Note: HCV RNA testing will automatically be completed by the lab on client serology when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the clients first anti-HCV reactive result • The client had previous anti-HCV reactive results and HCV RNA testing has never been done • If an additional EDTA tube is required for HCV RNA testing, instructions for completion will be noted on the BCCDC Provincial Lab result.
Treatment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is highly recommended to refer your client to an Infectious Disease specialist for a treatment assessment • Refer to the Hepatitis C Treatment Guide available on BCCDC's website for more information on treatment
Recommended Immunizations
<p>The following vaccines are free for individuals living with Hepatitis C infection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hepatitis A Vaccine • Hepatitis B Vaccine • Pneumococcal Vaccine • Annual Influenza Vaccine <p>Vaccines can be accessed through public health, pharmacists or at some medical clinics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For information on how to get immunized through public health, visit fraserhealth.ca/immunizations • For information on vaccines recommended for adults in BC, visit immunizebc.ca
Education
<p>If you have patients with HCV, is it important to provide education regarding risk factors, healthy lifestyle, transmission and prevention.</p> <p>HealthLinkBC has detailed Hepatitis C Virus Infection information available in in multiple languages on their website at healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/hepatitis-c-virus-infection</p>

If you have questions or require support with HCV follow up, contact Fraser Health's Sexual Health and Blood-borne Infections team at (604) 587-6788 or download a copy of our brochure available at patienteduc.fraserhealth.ca

Additional resources:

- Canadian Liver Foundation – liver.ca
- BCCDC Communicable Disease Manual: Hepatitis C Guideline – bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/communicable-disease-control-manual/communicable-disease-control
- BCCDC Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Case Definitions – [bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/case-definitions/hepatitis-c-infection-\(hcv\)](http://bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/case-definitions/hepatitis-c-infection-(hcv))