Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination partners stepping up to respond to COVID-19

Leveraging their resources and networks developed for hepatitis elimination, Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination (CGHE) partners and others in the hepatitis community have been on the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic response.

Information resources

CGHE partners and others in the hepatitis community are actively providing urgently needed information to governments, providers, and patients. Below is a summary of some of their efforts and newly developed resources:

- The World Health Organization continues to provide situational updates on the global epidemic and technical guidance to countries.
- The American Association for the Study of Liver Disease (AASLD) is providing timely information and resources to support health care providers in hepatology, liver transplantation and gastroenterology as well as their patients and caregivers. Watch this AASLD webinar titled “Clinical Insights: COVID-19 and the liver.”
- The European Association for the Study of Liver Disease (EASL) has collated resources, published a position paper providing recommendations for clinicians on caring for patients with liver diseases and liver transplant recipients, and is collaborating on a registry to collect data on patients with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 and liver disease (any stage) or a liver transplant.
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is providing information to policy makers, state and local health departments, healthcare providers and the general public. Begin exploring their resources here or here.
- The National Institutes of Health’s National Cancer Institute is providing guidance to patients living with cancer and information for researchers here.
- The World Hepatitis Alliance has developed a resource library with the latest information on COVID-19 for people living with viral hepatitis.
- CGHE has published a synthesis brief on COVID-19 and liver disease as a resource to programs.
- The International AIDS Society (IAS) has published a resource page for people living with HIV that includes frequently asked questions and links to additional information from UNAIDS, CDC, and HIV.gov. IAS has also put together a webinar series, that includes a presentation by Dr. Meg Doherty of WHO on the latest guidance on COVID-19 and HIV.
- The Harm Reduction Coalition has developed a resource library tailored to concerns for people who use drugs and people who engage with sex work. This library includes important guidance for service delivery of syringe exchange and harm reduction interventions during the pandemic.

All these organizations are also working to respond to their member organizations and the needs of the communities they serve, as well as adapt their planned activities to new realities.
New technologies

CGHE corporate partners are actively responding to this crisis by developing laboratory tests, participating in clinical trials and vaccine development, and ensuring supply chain for their existing lifesaving medicines. Although just the tip of the iceberg of their full activities, here are some highlights:

- **Abbott** received authorization from the FDA for a COVID-19 point of care test which delivers positive results in as little as five minutes. This allows for rapid testing in non-traditional sites. Abbott is also producing tests for centralized lab environments. According to their news release, Abbott expects to produce about 5 million tests in April.

- **Roche** has also received authorization from the FDA for its cobas SARS-CoV-2 test. This test is designed for high volume laboratory testing and provides results in under 4 hours. The Roche system can process between 1,440 and 4,128 tests daily. According to their press release, Roche expects to have millions of tests available a month.

- **Cepheid** has developed and received FDA approval for an Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 point of care test that works on their current GeneXpert systems. Currently 23,000 GeneXpert systems are deployed in 23,000 settings around the world.

- **Gilead Sciences** has begun enrolling patients in a clinical trial on their investigational medicine remdesivir. In a letter from Chairman and CEO, Daniel O’Day, he explains that they are transitioning remdesivir from a “compassionate use” program to an “expanded access” program where by hospitals or physicians can apply for emergency use of remdesivir for patients.

- **Siemen’s** is helping to solve the shortage of medical supplies by opening their AM Network Platform to anyone who requires medical device design or print services. More information about designers and suppliers can be found here.

In these trying times, it takes collaboration from all sectors to not only fight this current threat but also continue to support people living with hepatitis and sustain progress towards hepatitis elimination goals. Working together, we will achieve elimination.

If your program is assisting in the response, please share your experience here. We will continue to highlight resources as we identify them.