

HOLDING A COMMUNITY BBV TESTING EVENT

**A Guide by
Hepatitis Scotland**

Hepatitis
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WHY

The World Health Organisation has set a target for the global elimination of Hepatitis C by 2030.

Scotland has set a more ambitious target of elimination by 2024.

In order to achieve this, we must reach people who may have been exposed to hepatitis C and provide opportunities to be tested.

WHERE

The semi-rural nature of much of Scotland and the transport provision even in our big cities means that trips to clinics are expensive and time-consuming and provoke anxiety for some people.

During the recent pandemic we saw some great examples of frontline workers going into communities to test people where they were in their own community setting. This activity made testing accessible and acceptable to people who may previously not sought testing. It would be difficult to replicate the numbers of tests performed in a clinic setting.

Continuing and extending provision of testing in easily accessible community venues will help increase the number of people are tested and contribute to achieving Scotland's Hepatitis C elimination target.



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WHO

Experience tells us that other agencies will be keen to outreach to populations at higher risk of Hepatitis C infection and offer them services and supports. Having a range of agencies as well as the local BBV team attend makes for a varied and interesting experience for people who attend and means the focus is not solely on BBVs.

Housing, welfare benefits, counselling, health, dental services and recovery communities have all had stalls and provided information and accepted referrals at events where testing was also available.

People attending the event feedback that it was "great having everyone available in the same place".

Remember that the key stakeholders are people who have been or have been at a raised risk of hepatitis.

WHEN

The process for organising an event will vary but there are key components that will be needed.



This outline schedule will help you plan your event!

IN ADVANCE (7/8 weeks before the event)

- Identify possible venues, ideally within the local community that has a large space for stakeholder stalls and a few small rooms for testing. Also check venue availability dates.
- Consider disabled access and kitchen facilities if you intend to provide refreshments.
- Contact potential stakeholders, it is important to get BBV nurses and support organisation's availability and testing pathways confirmed before the date is set.
- Set meeting date and book venue.
- Consider if the event will be incentivised. In our experience, providing cash/vouchers encourages people to attend.
- Contact local recovery groups and peers to find volunteers, they are crucial to the events success.
- Decide how to promote the event, we would suggest reaching out to Alcohol and Drug Partnerships, BBV Managed Care Networks, health promotion networks, addiction treatment services, recovery communities, housing and housing support services, homelessness services, criminal justice services... and you will be aware of other local stakeholders.
- Consider social media, flyers and email invites.



IN THE LEAD UP (1-7 weeks before the event)

- Liaise with stakeholders to confirm their needs e.g. tables for resources, poster boards. chairs etc.
- Confirm pathway in place with BBV team for results and follow up.
- Design evaluation questionnaire.
- Consider social media, flyers and email invites.
- Push event promotion
- Visit venue again to confirm room layout and other details

ON THE DAY

- Hold event!
- Ensure attendees complete the evaluation questionnaire by making it a prerequisite to entering the prize draw.
- Arrange post event meeting with stakeholders to feedback and process evaluation.

In our experience a spend of around £700 covered room hire, catering, a £5 voucher for people who were tested and a £100 voucher for a prize draw. When we surveyed potential attendees this is what they told us would attract them – and it did!



THINGS TO CONSIDER

Stall Holders

It is important that there is a range of testing both intravenous and rapid testing for all BBVs as required, but also Sexual Health Assessments.

This should be facilitated by MCN organising nurses and Support Workers. Fibrosan is a big incentive to attend as well as access to cepheid or abbot on the spot testing

The event is also a great opportunity to have Naloxone supplies as well as harm reduction and new treatment information and advice.

The focus of the event is not only about increased BBV testing but to encourage individuals to access or to re-engage in local agencies.

Entertainment

To make the day fun and inclusive we encourage an entertainment element to the day. Having local musicians, face painting, pampering services, a tombola and other games will increase the appeal of attending the event.

To encourage interaction with the stalls and also attendance for the event it is useful to have prizes for completing a questionnaire that requires information gathering from different stalls.



Promotion

Promotional materials can be put up in places like chemists, hostels, church care and share events, foodbanks, recovery cafes and local support groups. It is also beneficial to have people from the organising group speak to people at these places to advertise the event.

The best way to get people to come to the event is to, on the day, have facilitators and volunteers on the street handing out leaflets and following up at locations where the event has been promoted (hostels, chemists, churches etc.).

Advertising prizes and free food are big incentives to getting people to attend the event.

Volunteers

In the lead up to the event volunteers can be key in promoting the event to local networks.

On the day you can have volunteers doing outreach/street work and event promotion to local people, but also volunteers can assist with other roles such as meeting and greeting, giving out quiz and evaluation sheets.

Finally

Use this as your discussion starter and be creative! Expect some hitches and embrace the learning! Celebrate and enjoy the networking opportunities that allow organisations to work together to best support the needs of people who are affected by BBV's.

