



HEP FREE NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND PLANNING GROUP WELCOME PACKET

Hep Free Northern New England is a New Hampshire-driven collaboration involving the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS), the Maine Centers for Disease Control (ME CDC), the Vermont Department of Health (VT DOH), and stakeholders across diverse sectors spanning all three states. NH DHHS provides project management, leadership, and funding for the Hep Free NNE initiative.

WELCOME TO THE HEP FREE NNE PLANNING GROUP!

Thank you for joining in this community initiative to **eliminate viral hepatitis** in northern New England!

We are excited by the number of people who signed up for the Planning Group, and we are always happy to welcome more. If there are people in your circles who you believe would be a good voice to bring to the table, **please encourage them to join**. The more voices, the better the ultimate plan.

This packet offers an overview of the Planning Group Charter and meetings, as well as a look at where the elimination plan project is now, and where it is going. A *Viral Hepatitis 101* section provides an overview of Northern New England's hepatitis epidemiology, and basic information to ground everyone's knowledge in hepatitis B & C.

If you attended the October 5th Summit, you will be familiar with the **Strategic Priorities** that were introduced that day. The feedback you gave at the Summit has helped to mold these priorities into the **Pillars** of our **Elimination Plan**, with specific **Goal** statements. For those who missed the Summit, you will find these Pillars and Goals outlined in the next pages.

The Planning Group will focus its energies on creating **Objectives and Activities** for each Goal. The visuals in this packet will guide you on the dates that specific goals will be reviewed.

Please send questions to HepFreeNNE@dhhs.nh.gov, and make sure to visit our HepFreeNNE website: HepFreeNNE.org. As we progress through 2024, the website will function as a portal for you to access information about current efforts of the group.

Bring your knowledge and experience to the table!

**Find Enclosed: 1) Planning Group Charter & Meeting Guidelines 2) Elimination Plan Roadmap
3) Viral Hepatitis 101 4) Steering Committee Members**