

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 25, 2017**

**For More Information Contact**

Daniel Hunsucker, public health educator, LENOWISCO Health District, 276-386-1312

## **VDH Hosts Public Meetings on Hepatitis, HIV, Drug Abuse**

(WISE, Va.) – The Virginia Department of Health’s (VDH) LENOWISCO and Cumberland Plateau Health Districts will host town hall meetings in June to engage the community in discussions about injection drug use and related infections including hepatitis B and C and HIV.

The meetings – on June 7 and 28 – will feature representatives from the National Association of County and City Health Officials, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, local VDH staff and community members, to discuss a comprehensive community response plan for outbreaks of illness associated with drug use and to reduce the risks of further disease transmission and other consequences of injection drug use. VDH will present a *draft* emergency response plan to address a potential rapid increase in new infectious hepatitis (hepatitis B or C infections) or HIV cases.

The meetings are open to the public and include information on the current impact of infections related to injection drug use and an opportunity for community members to help develop a response plan. Pre-registration is **required** so that sufficient meeting space and materials are available. Pre-register at [www.swvatownhall.eventbrite.com](http://www.swvatownhall.eventbrite.com).

The meeting schedule is as follows:

### **June 7**

Lee County  
Jonesville United Methodist Church  
Church and Institute Street  
Jonesville  
9 to 10:30 a.m.

Scott County  
First Baptist Church of Weber City  
2436 U.S. Highway 23 N  
Weber City  
2 to 3:30 p.m.

### **June 28**

Dickenson County  
Dickenson Center for Education and  
Research  
818 Happy Valley Drive  
Clintwood  
9 to 10:30 a.m.

Wise County  
Mountain Empire Community College  
Goodloe Center  
3441 Mountain Empire Road  
Big Stone Gap  
2 to 3:30 p.m.

(More)

“Substance abuse, hepatitis and HIV have substantial impacts on individuals, families, healthcare providers, systems and communities. Community input is essential to develop plans that are supported by locally available resources and that work effectively for each community,” said Sue Cantrell, M.D, director, LENOWISCO Health District and interim director, Cumberland Plateau Health District..

For more information, call Daniel Hunsucker, health educator, LENOWISCO Health District at 276-386-1312.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 2, 2017**

**For More Information Contact**

Daniel Hunsucker, public health educator, LENOWISCO Health District, 276-386-1312

## **REVIVE Training and FREE Naloxone Offered After VDH Town Hall Meetings**

(WISE, Va.) – The Virginia Department of Health’s (VDH) LENOWISCO and Cumberland Plateau Health Districts will host town hall meetings in June to engage the community in discussions about injection drug use and related infections including hepatitis B and C and HIV.

Immediately following the town hall meetings, REVIVE training will be offered and free Naloxone will be dispensed to those who come to the meetings and complete the following training. REVIVE is Virginia’s Opioid Overdose and Naloxone Education Program. REVIVE provides training to professionals, stakeholders, and other community members on how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose emergency with the administration of naloxone. The training covers understanding opioids, how opioid overdoses happen, risk factors for opioid overdoses, and how to respond to an opioid emergency with the administration of Naloxone. Naloxone, a prescription medication, is a drug that reverses the effects that opioids have in the brain. This allows a person’s body to resume breathing after an overdose.

“Naloxone has been used for years by emergency medical technicians and emergency room doctors to reverse opioid overdose emergencies,” said Sue Cantrell, M.D, director, LENOWISCO Health District and interim director, Cumberland Plateau Health District. “Outside of this singular purpose, Naloxone has no adverse effect on the body, and poses no danger to anyone who accidentally administers it to themselves or someone else.”

The meetings are open to the public and include information on the current impact of infections related to injection drug use and an opportunity for community members to help develop a response plan. Pre-registration is **required** so that sufficient meeting space and materials are available. Pre-register at [www.swvatownhall.eventbrite.com](http://www.swvatownhall.eventbrite.com).

The meeting schedule is as follows:

*(More)*

**June 7**

Lee County  
Jonesville United Methodist Church  
Church and Institute Street  
Jonesville  
9 to 10:30 a.m.

Scott County  
First Baptist Church of Weber City  
2436 U.S. Highway 23 N  
Weber City  
2 to 3:30 p.m.

**June 28**

Dickenson County  
Dickenson Center for Education and  
Research  
818 Happy Valley Drive  
Clintwood  
9 to 10:30 a.m.

Wise County  
Mountain Empire Community College  
Goodloe Center  
3441 Mountain Empire Road  
Big Stone Gap  
2 to 3:30 p.m.

“Every family has been touched in some way due to the opioid epidemic and these town hall meetings are the perfect opportunity for our communities to get involved,” said Sue Cantrell. “Everyone is invited to attend the town hall meetings and then stay afterward for the REVIVE training and free dispensing of Naloxone.”

For more information, call Daniel Hunsucker, health educator, LENOWISCO Health District at 276-386-1312

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 20, 2017**

**For More Information Contact**

Daniel Hunsucker, public health educator, LENOWISCO Health District, 276-386-1312

## **VDH Hosts Public Meetings Addressing Drug Abuse, Hepatitis and HIV**

(WISE, Va.) – The Virginia Department of Health’s (VDH) LENOWISCO and Cumberland Plateau Health Districts will host town hall meetings on June 28 to engage the community in discussions about injection drug use and related infections including hepatitis B and C and HIV.

The meetings will feature representatives from the National Association of County and City Health Officials, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, local VDH staff and community members. They will discuss a comprehensive community emergency response plan for outbreaks of illness associated with drug use. The Plan aims to reduce the risks of further disease transmission and other consequences of injection drug use. VDH will present a *draft* community emergency response plan to address a potential rapid increase in new infectious hepatitis (hepatitis B or C infections) or HIV.

The meetings will be held on Wednesday, June 28, 2017 at the following times/locations:

### **Dickenson County**

Dickenson Center for Education and  
Research  
818 Happy Valley Drive  
Clintwood, VA  
9 to 10:30 a.m.

### **Wise County**

Mountain Empire Community College  
Dalton-Cantrell Hall Building  
Room D242 & D243  
3441 Mountain Empire Road  
Big Stone Gap, VA  
2 to 3:30 p.m.

Immediately following the town hall meetings, REVIVE training will be offered and free naloxone will be dispensed to those who come to the meetings and complete the training. REVIVE is Virginia’s Opioid Overdose and Naloxone Education Program. REVIVE provides training to professionals, stakeholders and other community members on how to recognize and respond to an opioid overdose emergency. The training covers understanding opioids, how opioid overdoses happen, risk factors for opioid overdoses and how to respond to an opioid emergency with the administration of naloxone. Naloxone, a prescription medication, is a drug that reverses the effects that opioids have in the brain. This allows a person’s body to resume breathing after an overdose.

“Naloxone has been used for years by emergency medical technicians and emergency room providers to reverse opioid overdose emergencies,” said Sue Cantrell, M.D, director, LENOWISCO Health District and interim director, Cumberland Plateau Health District. “Outside of this singular purpose, naloxone has no adverse effect on the body, and poses no danger to anyone who accidentally administers it to themselves or someone else.”

*(More)*

The meetings are free and open to the public and include information on the current impact of infections related to injection drug use as well as an opportunity for community members to help develop a response plan. Pre-registration is *preferred* so that sufficient meeting space and materials are available. Pre-register online at [www.swvatownhall.eventbrite.com](http://www.swvatownhall.eventbrite.com) or by calling Shirley Miller at 276-328-1916.

“Nearly every family has been touched in some way by the opioid epidemic and these town hall meetings are an opportunity for people to get involved,” said Dr. Cantrell. “Everyone is invited to attend the town hall meetings and stay after for the REVIVE training and no-cost dispensing of naloxone.”

For more information, call Daniel Hunsucker, health educator, LENOWISCO Health District at 276-386-1312.

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