

## **GLOBAL: Countries in Western Pacific Region to Meet Hepatitis B Control Target: WHO**

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Shin Young-soo stated on September 26 that at least 30 countries and areas in the region will likely reach the target of reducing the prevalence of hepatitis B infection to less than 2 percent among children of at least 5 years old by 2012. Shin, the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for the Western Pacific, made the statement in Hanoi at the 63rd Meeting of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific. The Committee is reviewing WHO's efforts to control or eliminate vaccine-preventable, life-threatening diseases, including measles, polio, and hepatitis B. Shin stated that because of this progress, the Region's Expanded Programme on Immunization Technical Advisory Group and Hepatitis B Expert Resource Panel have recommended setting 2017 as the target year for the goal to reduce hepatitis B infection rates to less than 1 percent.

[See the topic on aegis.org](http://aegis.org)