

## Be Free of Hep B, Get Tested at the Street Fair

BY ANGELA PANG

**F**or the second year in a row, the Asian Heritage Street Celebration will host free hepatitis B screenings, courtesy of Stanford University's Asian Liver Center.

The testing will take place at the third annual festival on May 19 and is part of the new San Francisco Hep B Free campaign, a major collaborative effort by the city government and private health-care and nonprofit community organizations. The two-year-long campaign aims to screen, vaccinate, and treat all API residents for hepatitis B (HBV).

Last year at the heritage celebration, 536 people were tested, marking the nation's largest one-day hepatitis B screening at a street fair.

The Hep B Free campaign, launched on Apr. 25, will put San Francisco at the forefront of the nation's fight against chronic hepatitis and will be the largest healthcare campaign to target Asian and Pacific Islanders in the U.S.

"Hepatitis B is a highly infectious disease that is affecting the health of our vibrant Asian and Pacific Islander community," said Mayor Gavin Newsom. "Fortunately, a vaccine exists that is safe and effective. San Francisco is committed to preventing the spread of this virus."

Hepatitis B is responsible for 80 percent of all liver cancers among APIs. San Francisco's API residents comprise 34 percent of

disproportionate burden of liver cancer and undetected HBV infection.

Members of the SF Hospital Council and the SF Community Clinic Consortium, the Asian Liver Center, API Wellness Center and others will provide free or low-cost screenings and vaccinations via physician offices, health clinics and street fairs.

"The goal of the campaign is to bring awareness to each and every API living in San Francisco and have them tested for hepatitis B," said Dr. Mitch Katz, Director of Public Health for the City and County of San Francisco.

The campaign will spread its message of "B Sure, B Tested, B Free" through Asian television, print and radio, as well as mainstream media outlets.

"Six months ago, I was really enjoying myself, going to parties, and suddenly I received a call from my doctor. 'Bok, you have 6 months to live,'" recalls Cathay Post Commander Bok Pon, one of the campaign's organizers. "I was in the greatest shape of my life. In the mornings I do 240 push-ups and walk 5 miles. My doctor told me to drop everything, but I did exactly the opposite. It's more meaningful to me if I can save others."

In November 2006, Mayor Gavin Newsom signed a resolution authored by then Supervisor Fiona Ma, establishing the goal of universal HBV screening and vaccination for API residents. The SF Hep B Free Steering Committee was also formed, comprised of the San Francisco Department of Public Health, Asian Liver Center

### Be Sure. Be Tested. Be Hep B Free.

We're proud that San Francisco is the most Asian-American city in the United States. More than one-third of San Francisco residents belong to this vibrant community. It's a big reason why our city is so great.

But an Asian-American health crisis threatens our great city. San Francisco has one of the highest liver cancer rates in the nation. 1-in-10 Asian Americans are infected with the Hepatitis B Virus. Without appropriate treatment and follow-up care, 1-in-4 of them will die of liver failure or liver cancer. Most of them don't even know they are infected.

There is a proven vaccine to prevent Hepatitis B and there are effective treatments. Starting in May, we will launch the **San Francisco Hep B Free Campaign** – many hospitals, clinics and organizations around San Francisco will provide free or low-cost Hepatitis B testing and vaccination to the public throughout the year. It's easy and convenient! You don't need health insurance or an appointment to access these services.

**Be sure, be tested, and be Hep B free.** Together we can end Hepatitis B!

For more information, contact:  
**(888) 311-3331**  
[www.sfhepbfree.org](http://www.sfhepbfree.org)

This campaign is supported by Mayor Gavin Newsom and Assemblywoman Fiona Ma

SAN FRANCISCO: HEP B FREE CAMPAIGN

**San Francisco HEP B FREE Calendar**  
 Testing & Vaccination Sites | May - August Schedule



Article continued from previous page

the city's population and bear a

### Free Hep B Blood Testing

Asian Heritage Street Celebration  
May 19, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
1025 Howard St. (Enter at Harriet St.)  
Provided by the Asian Liver Center at  
Stanford University



FILE PHOTO

Congressman Mike Honda gets tested at last year's street celebration.

at Stanford University, and the AsianWeek Foundation. Ma, an HBV carrier, is honorary chairperson of the Steering Committee. "There are almost 400 million people in the world living with chronic HBV infection and 75 percent of them, about 300 million, live in Asia," said Dr. Samuel So, Director of the Asian Liver Center at Stanford University. "This is a big

problem for Asians and Asian Americans because most Asian Americans are recent immigrants and their doctors have never tested them. For this reason, our SF Hep B Free campaign's main message to every API in San Francisco is: B Sure, B Tested and B Free."

[www.SFHepBFree.org](http://www.SFHepBFree.org)

Location	Blood Test & Fee (HBsAg & Anti HBs)	Vaccination & Fee (3 shots total, must show testing result)	Location	Blood Test & Fee	Vaccination & Fee
<b>Sunset Health Services</b>	\$10.00 Mon - Fri 9 am - 12 noon 2 pm - 3 pm	\$20 per shot Mon - Fri 2 pm - 5 pm	<b>Asian Liver Center at Stanford Univ. Y.M.C.A.</b>	Free	3rd Saturday of every month starting June 16 11 am - 2 pm 360 18th Avenue SF, CA 1-888-311-3331
<b>Excelsior Health Services</b>	\$10.00 Mon - Fri 9 am - 12 noon 2 pm - 3 pm (415) 677-2488	\$20 per shot Mon - Fri 2pm - 5 pm	<b>Asian Liver Center at Stanford Univ. booth at Asian Heritage Street Celebration</b>	Free	May 19, 2007 11 am - 4 pm 1025 Howard Street SF, CA
<b>Chinese Hospital</b>	\$10.00 Mon - Fri 9 am - 12 noon 2 pm - 3 pm (415) 677-4372	\$20 per shot First Wed of every month Dates: 05/02; 06/06; 07/04, 008/01, 09/05; 10/03; 11/07; 12/05 5 pm - 7 pm	<b>Adult Immunization Travel Clinic</b>	Not provided	\$61 per shot Mon - Fri 9 am - 4 pm 101 Grove St., #102 SF, CA (415) 554-2625

The best location to get a Hep B test and vaccination is at your doctor's office. Make an appointment today!

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