



# San Francisco Hep B Free

*First city in the U.S. to test and vaccinate all Asian and Pacific Islanders for HBV*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Walgreens To Help Promote Hep B Awareness in Stores Citywide -100,000 informational fliers to be distributed in pharmacies-**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, December 7, 2009 – San Francisco Hep B Free is partnering with Walgreens to encourage all clinicians citywide to routinely screen their patients for hepatitis B. Beginning Dec. 7, Walgreens will distribute 100,000 informational hepatitis B fliers at more than 60 pharmacy locations throughout the city.

When patients pick up their orders, pharmacists will include the two-sided flyer with their prescription. One side of the flyer contains facts about the disease, while the other side lists several public testing sites and Walgreens locations that provide vaccinations. Those Walgreens locations include 745 Clement St., 1580 Valencia St., Suite 101, 2690 Mission St., and 5260 Diamond Heights.

"As we enter the next phase of the San Francisco Hep B Free Campaign - to influence clinician behavior to screen and test all Asian and Pacific Islanders for hepatitis B - we want to encourage the public to be involved by asking their clinicians about this disease. Having informational flyers about Hep B in Walgreens pharmacy bags will help do so," said Mitch Katz, MD, Director of the SF Department of Public Health. "We applaud Walgreens for their support of the campaign and hope that we can one day eradicate this disease."

**Where can I get tested in San Francisco?**

At Your Doctor's Office  
or, at any of the following public testing sites:

Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center	415.292.3400
W 4-7pm; F 2-6pm; 1st Sat/month 11-2pm (call for appointment)	
California Pacific Medical Center	415.600.1360
Call for appointment	
Chinese Hospital	415.677.2303
M - Sat 2-5pm	
Chinatown Public Health Center	415.364.7910
2nd Sat/month 9am-noon	
Excelsior Health Services	415.677.2488
M - F 9am-noon, 1:30-3:30pm	
South of Market Health Center	415.626.2951
M - Thu 8-noon, 1-5pm; F - Sat 8-noon, 1-3:30pm	
Sunset Health Services	415.677.2388
M - F 9-noon, 1:30-3:30pm	
UCSF Medical Center at Mt. Zion	415.885.3580
1st Sat/month 9-noon	

**Where can I get vaccinated in San Francisco?**

Walgreens	
1580 Valencia St., Suite 101	415.970.8001
5260 Diamond Heights	415.695.2808
2690 Mission St.	415.285.1576
745 Clement St.	415.668.5250

Brought to you by the San Francisco Hep B Free Campaign [sfhepbfree.org](http://sfhepbfree.org)  
Dedicated to making San Francisco the first city in North America to test and vaccinate all AP adults for hepatitis B

"Hepatitis is a very serious disease that many people aren't even aware of," said Jeff Wong, Walgreens Pharmacy Manager. "In a city where more than one third of its residents are Asian, Walgreens is proud to be supporting a campaign that aims to raise awareness about this vaccine preventable disease."

Hepatitis B causes up to 80 percent of all liver cancers and disproportionately affects 1 in 10 Asian and Pacific Islanders. A safe and effective vaccine prevents infection and liver cancer caused by hepatitis B.

"With the cold and flu season underway, more patients will head to the pharmacy and will receive the hepatitis B flyers in their bags," said Dr. Lisa Tang of Kaiser Permanente who chairs the SF Hep B Free

Clinicians Outreach Committee. "Our hope is that people will read the flyer - 'Be a hero. See a doctor who tests for hepatitis B' and ask their clinician for more information. As more and more patients discuss this with their clinicians, they will hopefully be motivated to learn more about the disease."

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### **ABOUT Hepatitis B**

Asian and Pacific Islanders (APIs) are disproportionately impacted by Hepatitis B. It is a disease of the liver caused by HBV, a virus often called a "silent killer" because it can cause liver cancer, cirrhosis or liver failure without producing symptoms. San Francisco has the highest liver cancer rate in the nation, and 80% of liver cancer in APIs is caused by HBV. But it's preventable with a simple vaccine.

### **ABOUT San Francisco Hep B Free**

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

San Francisco Hep B Free is a first-of-its-kind collaboration between city government, private healthcare and community organizations. The program's goal is to make San Francisco a hepatitis B-free city by (1) creating public and healthcare provider awareness about the importance of testing & vaccinating APIs for hepatitis B; (2) promoting routine HBV screenings and vaccinations within the primary care medical community; and (3) facilitating access to treatment for chronically infected individuals. The campaign's theme is "B a Hero. See a doctor who tests for Hepatitis B."