

1 [National Hepatitis Awareness Month - May 2022]

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3 **Resolution declaring May 2022 as National Hepatitis Awareness Month in the City and**
4 **County of San Francisco, with the goal of raising awareness of hepatitis B and C,**
5 **encouraging residents to know their hepatitis status, and supporting efforts to make**
6 **San Francisco the first City in America to be free of hepatitis.**

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8 WHEREAS, Hepatitis B and C are the leading cause of liver cancer and liver
9 transplants, liver cancer is one of the few cancers that continue to rise in California and the
10 US, and more people die in California from hepatitis B and C related liver disease than any
11 other state; and

12 WHEREAS, Chronic hepatitis B and C afflict an estimated 5.2 million Americans
13 chronically; and

14 WHEREAS, In the United States, the highest burden of chronic hepatitis B and
15 hepatitis B-related liver cancer is in the state of California, primarily the San Francisco Bay
16 Area where an estimated 1.78% San Franciscans test positive for hepatitis B; and

17 WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific Islanders make up 6.1 percent of the U.S. population
18 and 36.5 percent of the population of the City and County of San Francisco, but account for
19 58 percent of Americans living with hepatitis B; and

20 WHEREAS, Hepatitis B infection and liver cancer remain the greatest health disparity
21 for Asian and Pacific Islanders, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
22 (CDC) has recommended that all residents born in Asia and the Pacific Islands get tested for
23 hepatitis B; and

24 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed Resolution
25 659-06 in November 2006 establishing the "goal of universal hepatitis B screening and

1 vaccination for Asian and Pacific Islander residents of San Francisco," and the San Francisco
2 Health Commission unanimously passed a companion resolution endorsing that goal,
3 Resolution 16-06 in December 2006; and

4 WHEREAS, San Francisco has been a leader in the nation for hepatitis B prevention
5 efforts with Chinese Hospital holding the first community screenings and San Francisco
6 General Hospital providing the first universal infant immunizations in America; and

7 WHEREAS, SF Hep B Free - Bay Area was created in 2007 as one of the first
8 municipal hepatitis B awareness campaigns in the country and has grown into one of the
9 largest healthcare campaigns for Asian and Pacific Islanders in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, In partnership with local health entities such as North East Medical
11 Services (NEMS), a federally qualified health center focused on serving underserved Asian
12 communities in the San Francisco Bay Area, SF Hep B Free - Bay Area continues to increase
13 awareness and provided education about hepatitis B within the community and among health
14 care providers, increase access to affordable testing and vaccination, and provide linkage to
15 care for chronically affected individuals; and

16 WHEREAS, The CDC has recommended universal hepatitis B vaccination among all
17 adults aged 19 to 59 years and adults aged 60 and older with risk factors for hepatitis B or
18 without identified risk factors but seeking protection; and

19 WHEREAS, The hepatitis C (HCV) epidemic continues to grow at an alarming rate
20 despite the availability of curative treatments since 2014; and

21 WHEREAS, Between 40 and 50 percent of those living with HCV are unaware of their
22 status, thereby increasing their risk of severe health problems, including cirrhosis, liver
23 cancer, liver transplant, and death; and

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1 WHEREAS, The CDC has reported that the annual rate of HCV cases tripled from
2 2009-2018,with the highest rates among younger adults driven primarily by injection drug use,
3 and research suggests those rates have risen during COVID; and

4 WHEREAS, HCV affects those most marginalized in San Francisco including American
5 Indians, Alaska Natives, Black Californians, people using drugs, those experiencing
6 homelessness and those involved in the carceral system; and

7 WHERAS, The City and County of San Francisco has a history of innovative and
8 ambitious public health efforts geared toward addressing and leveling health inequities and
9 disparities, and was the first US city to declare a goal of HCV elimination and the first city to
10 create a community-based HBV education and awareness model recognized by the US
11 Department of Health and Human Services; and

12 WHEREAS, The CDC and US Preventative Services Task Force recommends that all
13 adults receive at least once in a lifetime hepatitis C screening; and

14 WHEREAS, The State of California requires that adult patients receiving primary care
15 services shall be offered a hepatitis B and hepatitis C screening test, and requires providers to
16 offer follow up health care or a referral to follow up health care to the patient if the screening
17 test is positive; and

18 WHEREAS, The Viral Hepatitis National Strategic Plan for the United States sets forth
19 a clear vision for how the United States will be a place where new viral hepatitis infections are
20 prevented, where every person knows their status, and every person with viral hepatitis has
21 high-quality health care and treatment and lives free from stigma and discrimination; now,
22 therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, May 2022 is declared as National Hepatitis Awareness Month in the City
24 and County of San Francisco; and, be it

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1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors commends all
2 the dedicated organizations, volunteers, activists, those with lived experience, and those who
3 strive for health justice, serving San Francisco with their advocacy and prevention efforts for
4 hepatitis B and C; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges all
6 healthcare institutions and providers to ensure full implementation of the mandate to offer
7 hepatitis B and C screening and the follow up care and treatment or linkage to appropriate
8 care and treatment to all California adults and to increase clinician education on the
9 importance hepatitis screenings and adult vaccinations for hepatitis B, and when appropriate,
10 care and treatment; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges all San
12 Franciscans to know their viral hepatitis status and get linked to appropriate care and
13 treatment, particularly those in the most vulnerable communities.

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