

# Peninsula Health Care District and San Francisco Hep B Free-Bay Area Join Efforts to Combat Hepatitis B in San Mateo County

*PHCD Board approves multi-year funding of \$150,000/year for 3 years*

**Burlingame, Calif., (July 27, 2020)** – Last month, the Peninsula Health Care District Board of Directors approved multi-year funding of \$150,000 per year for three years to support a Targeted Hepatitis B Prevention Campaign in San Mateo County. In partnership with San Francisco Hep B Free-Bay Area, the District will work to create a threshold of community awareness and increased access to testing and vaccines for Hepatitis B and the liver cancer that it causes, focusing on addressing the disparities faced by Asian Pacific Islanders (API).

In San Mateo County, approximately 238,000 Asian and Pacific Islander community members are at risk of Hepatitis B. This equates to 1 in 3 residents at risk. As many as 19,000 could be infected with Hepatitis B without knowing.

“The Bay Area has some of the highest rates of liver cancer likely due to Hepatitis B. It is critical to create sustained change in Hepatitis B knowledge, testing, and vaccination. With a comprehensive strategy in education, screening and treatment, we can move the needle,” said Richard So, Executive Director of San Francisco Hep B Free-Bay Area.

Peninsula Health Care District is a committed partner to this effort and leads in bringing health-focused programs and services to the community with the overarching goal to eliminate health disparities and help residents achieve their optimal health. “This partnership will support the health priorities of the Asian and Pacific Islander community and benefit the residents of our region who may also be at risk,” said Lawrence W. Cappel, Ph.D., Board Chair of Peninsula Health Care District. “This disease is 100% detectable and treatable and through this initiative, lives will be saved. Through this investment in our community, we have an opportunity to implement targeted, low-cost and effective strategies for prevention.”

**About San Francisco Hep B Free-Bay Area:** San Francisco Hep B Free-Bay Area is a multicounty campaign to turn the San Francisco Bay Area into the first Hepatitis B free area in the nation. San Francisco Hep B Free-Bay Area supports local, state, and national advocacy efforts to increase awareness of Hepatitis B among Asian and Pacific Islander (API) adults, to promote routine Hepatitis B testing and vaccination and to ensure access to treatment for the chronically infected individuals. For more information, visit [www.sfhepbfree.org](http://www.sfhepbfree.org).

**About the Peninsula Health Care District:** Founded in 1947, the Peninsula Health Care District serves the communities of San Bruno, Millbrae, Burlingame, Hillsborough, San Mateo and Foster City by supporting the unique health and wellness priorities of our Peninsula communities, and safeguarding access to health services, today and in the future. PHCD fulfills its commitment to the community through oversight of District assets and infrastructure, planning for future health care needs, and investing taxpayer dollars in local health-focused organizations and programs. To learn more about PHCD, visit [www.peninsulahealthcaredistrict.org](http://www.peninsulahealthcaredistrict.org).