

## Halting the Spread of Hepatitis B: The Starfish Program



More than 75 million people with Hepatitis B Virus infection currently live on the African continent, and 10-12% of all people have the infection in West Africa. The West African community is vibrant and rapidly growing in the Bronx, and approximately 120,000 people from West Africa call the Bronx home.

The majority of infections in West Africa occur from mother to baby at the time of birth. Most people with hepatitis B do not have signs and symptoms. The transmission of infection can easily be prevented through screening with a simple blood test and vaccination. Effective therapy for patients with active infection is available. Untreated infection commonly leads to severe liver disease and cancer. Treatment can prevent both the development of severe liver disease and cancer.

Unfortunately, most West Africans in the Bronx are not being screened for the infection, vaccinated, and treated for this potentially deadly infection. Because of the importance of West Africans to the Montefiore and Bronx community, the Liver Disease Division at Montefiore Medical Center has initiated an outreach program /campaign for Hepatitis B awareness, screening, and transition to on-going care for those who are in need.

We are offering FREE screenings to all West Africans to help keep our community safe. Please contact us, if you would like us to provide an interactive educational program to your organization or if you would like to be screened.

To schedule Educational Programs /Presentations  
**Email: [eemeasob@montefiore.org](mailto:eemeasob@montefiore.org)**

For FREE Screenings  
**Call: 718-920-6240** to schedule an appointment or  
**Email: [eemeasob@montefiore.org](mailto:eemeasob@montefiore.org)**