

RESOLUTION 158(24)

May 8, 2024

WHEREAS, **National Hepatitis Awareness Month** was first established in May of 2001; the Ocean County Health Department and our public health partners work to shed light on the impact of these hidden epidemics by raising awareness of viral hepatitis while encouraging testing and vaccination. Hepatitis Awareness Month activities help to improve everyone's understanding of viral hepatitis transmission and risk factors and to decrease social stigma against viral hepatitis; and

WHEREAS, hepatitis is a disease which causes inflammation of the liver and up to 5 million Americans are affected by this disease; and

WHEREAS, hepatitis A, hepatitis B and hepatitis C are all different diseases. Each type of hepatitis is caused by a different virus and spreads in different ways. Hepatitis A does not cause a long-term infection, although it can make people very sick. Hepatitis B and hepatitis C can become chronic, life-long infections and lead to serious health problems; and

WHEREAS tens of thousands of new cases of viral hepatitis occur every year in the United States. Viral hepatitis is a serious public health threat that kills thousands of Americans annually and is a leading cause of liver cancer. Hepatitis A and hepatitis B are vaccine-preventable and hepatitis C can be cured; and

WHEREAS Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C can become chronic, life-long infections which can lead to liver cancer. Millions of Americans are living with chronic viral hepatitis, and many do not know they are infected; and

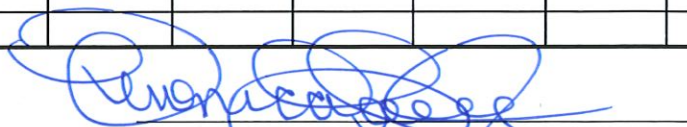
WHEREAS more than **300 million people are infected with the hepatitis B** virus (HBV) or the hepatitis C virus (HCV) and are at risk of developing escalating health problems. HBV and HCV are responsible for more than half of all new liver cancer cases and one in every 12 cancer deaths; and

WHEREAS the Hepatitis B vaccine is now recommended for all infants at birth followed by two more immunizations against this disease in their first six months, and for adults who may be at risk; and

WHEREAS the Ocean County Health Department continues to promote age-appropriate vaccinations for children, including Hepatitis A and B and audits school immunization records to assure compliance for our children.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey hereby proclaims the month of **May 2024** as **National Hepatitis Awareness Month**.

Name	Bacchione	Gupta	Hill	Kubiel	Laureigh	Mancini	Scaturro	Singer	Mallon
Ayes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Abstain									
Nays									
Absent									


Secretary/Treasurer