

HEPATITIS B OUTREACH AMONG SOUTH ASIAN COMMUNITIES IN THE U.S.



APRIL 13, 2022

PARTICIPATING IN THE WEBINAR



Audio – Attendees on mute



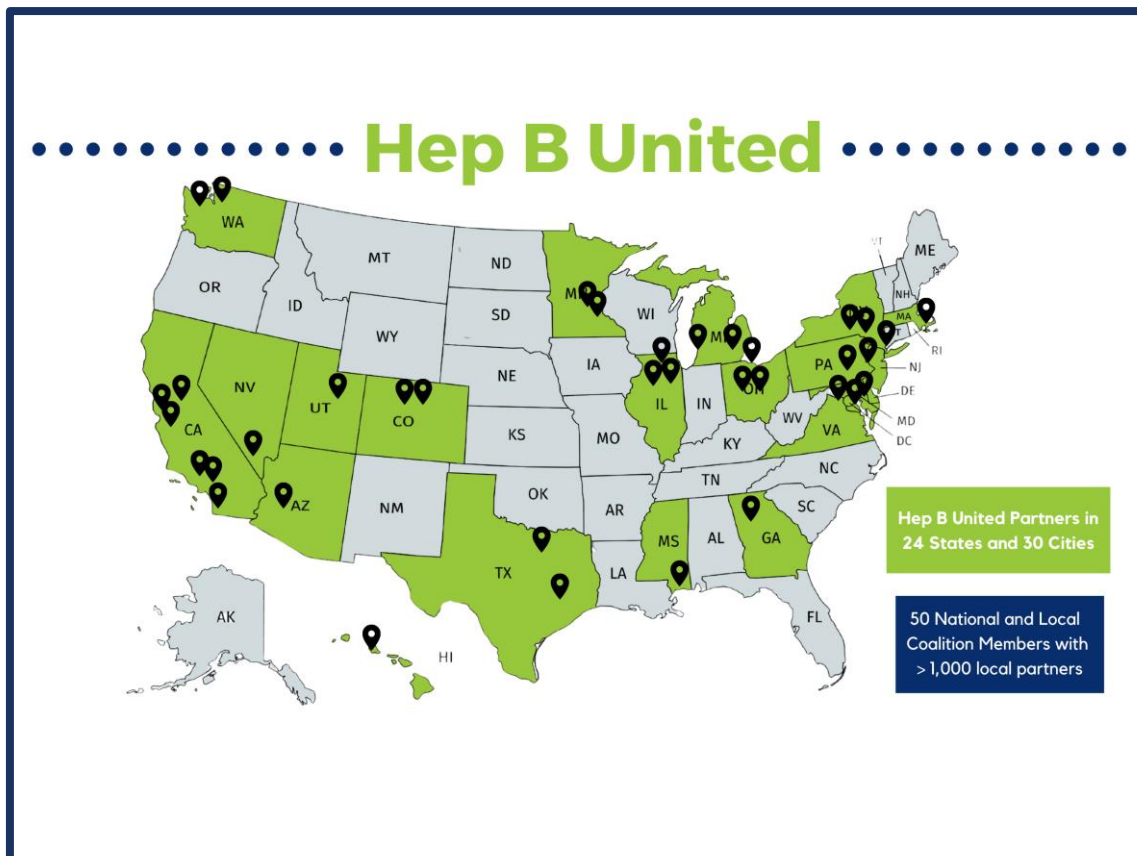
Chat Box – Hello! Feel free to share comments in the chat



Questions? Please share questions in the Q&A window

**The session is being recorded. We will also share presentation slides.*

HEP B UNITED: A NATIONAL COALITION



- 50+ local coalitions & national organizations in 30 cities and 24 states, and D.C.
- **Mission** - Hep B United is a national coalition dedicated to reducing the health disparities associated with hepatitis B by increasing awareness, screening, vaccination, and linkage to care for high-risk communities across the United States.

Shaili Ghandi and Adeeba Khan

NYC Hep Free South Asian Hepatitis Initiative
New York City Department of Health and
Mental Hygiene

Mohammed Saiful Islam

Executive Director
Community Welfare Services of Metro Detroit

PANELISTS

Why focus on the south Asian population?

According to the WHO, **410,000** people in the Southeast Asia Region die due to Viral Hepatitis each year

- ~ **39 million** people in the region are living with Hep B
- ~ **10 million** people in the region are living with Hep C

In New York City:

- In 2018, **2.5%** of people with Hep B who gave birth in NYC were born in Bangladesh
- In 2019, **4%** of South Asian pregnant people who gave birth in NYC had Hep B
- In 2018, **2.6%** of people tested positive for Hep C were of Pakistani background

SAHI Objectives

1

Raise Awareness about hep B and hep C among South Asian-born and diaspora populations

2

Provide services such as screening, immunization, referral services for hep B, hep C and liver disease in South Asian-born and diaspora populations

3

Build community and provider partnerships for hep B and hep C prevention for South Asian-born and diaspora populations

4

Identify and reduce cultural and language barriers to immunization, screening, and treatment for hep B, hep C and liver disease

Hep B and Hep C Postcards

Available in Hindi and Bengali

Focuses on Testing Provides information on transmission

Our Health
is in
Our Hands



**Hepatitis B:
Get Tested.
Get Vaccinated.**

Most people living with Hepatitis B (Hep B) do not have symptoms, and can still spread Hep B. Hep B can cause liver disease and cancer. Many South Asians living with Hep B got it when they were infants or children.



**Ask your
Healthcare Provider
about
Hep B**

Protect yourself, your family, and your community.

Get Tested for Hep B.

Learn more and find testing: nyc.gov/health/hepb

HEP FREE NYC

Our Health
is in
Our Hands



Hepatitis C: Get Tested, Get Cured.

Most people living with Hepatitis C (Hep C) do not have symptoms, and can still spread Hep C. Hep C can cause liver disease and cancer.



**You may have been
exposed to Hep C**
from blood transfusions,
medical procedures
or used medical/injection
equipment or needles.

Protect Your Loved Ones.

Ask Your Healthcare Provider About Hep C.

Learn more or find testing: nyc.gov/health/hepc

HEP FREE NYC

Hep B and Hep C Pocket Cards

Focuses on detailed information about Hep B and Hep C

- What are Hep B and Hep C
- Transmission
- Hep B and C Testing
- Hep B Vaccination
- Hep C Treatment

When it comes to Hepatitis B
Our Health is in Our Hands

Hepatitis B (Hep B) is a virus that harms your liver. It can cause liver failure, cancer, and even death.

There are usually no symptoms, the only way to know is to **get tested**.
Hep B is preventable;
There is no cure, but there is a vaccine!

People living with Hep B can live long and healthy lives.

Hep B is spread through blood, semen or vaginal fluids that have the Hep B virus.
Most South Asians living with Hep B got it during child birth or as a young child.



Get Tested!
Know your Hep B status. Encourage people living in your household, and your loved ones to get tested.



Get Vaccinated!
Then, get checked to make sure you have developed immunity.



Hep B is **NOT** spread by sharing food, water, food utensils or drinking cups, sneezing, coughing, kissing, hugging or shaking hands.



If you are living with Hep B, get check-ups and liver cancer screenings with your Hep B provider **every 6 months**.

Protect yourself, your family, and your community.
Ask your health care provider about Hep B.



Learn more, find testing and vaccination: nyc.gov/health/hepb

When it comes to Hepatitis C
Our Health is in Our Hands


Hepatitis C (Hep C) is a virus that harms your liver. It can cause liver failure, cancer, and even death.

There are usually no symptoms, the only way to know is to **get tested**.


There is no Hep C vaccine, but there is a cure!

Hep C is spread through blood that has the Hep C virus.

Most South Asians living with Hep C got it during a vaccination, medical procedure, or blood transfusion.




Get Tested!




Know your Hep C status. Encourage the people living in your household and your loved ones to get tested.


Hep C is **NOT** spread by sharing food, water, food utensils or drinking cups, sneezing, coughing, kissing, hugging or shaking hands.



If you are living with Hep C, ask your provider about **getting cured!** Treatment is short and effective.



Protect yourself, your family, and your community.
Ask your health care provider about Hep C.



Learn more and find testing and care: nyc.gov/health/hepc

Presentation

- Focuses on Hep B and Hep C Basics
- Culturally Relevant Slides
- 1-hour long
- Can be used to present to organization or health center staff and/or population served

HEPATITIS B & C BASICS



How do you prevent Hep B?



- Get vaccinated!
- Do not share personal care items
- Use condoms or physical barriers during sex
- Do not share or reuse injection, medical or drug use equipment
 - Such as needles, syringes, cotton, etc.
 - Make sure new or sterile equipment are always used for acupuncture, tattooing, piercing or injection


South Asians and Hep C



- South Asians are at high risk for Hep C.
- 10 million people in the South Asian region are living with Hep C
- Most South Asians who are living with Hep C got it during a medical procedure, vaccination or blood transfusion in a country where Hep B is very common.



Korean Community Services x South Asian Council for Social Services

- Facilitated relationship between hepatitis community partner KCS and South Asian advocacy organization SACSS
- Assisted KCS in applying for 2021 Hep B mini grant, through which they will partner with 2 FBOs and conduct 4 screenings in the SA community
- SAHI has helped connect KCS with SACSS, Hindu Temple Association, United Sikhs, and Muslim Women's Institute for Research & Development where they have conducted Hep B screening and education

 KCS





KCS &
GURDWARA SIKH CULTURAL SOCIETY

**FREE TESTING
FOR HEPATITIS B**

**9530 118th St, South Richmond
Hill, NY 11419**

SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2022 | 10 AM - 2 PM

Do you know your **Hep B status**? Get tested!
Join us for a free, confidential Hep B screening event
at the Gurdwara Sikh Society, hosted by KCS

Lessons Learned Over the Past Year



The community is largely unaware of hepatitis B and C – there is a need for community health education



There is a need to build a network of clinical providers serving the South Asian community



Community desires health education materials to be translated into a wider range of South Asian languages



South Asian CBOs are interested in participating in hepatitis B and C awareness and screening initiatives



Clinical partner feedback suggests a need for hepatitis B and C prevention integration into primary care settings

Accomplishments



Facilitated relationship between KCS and SA organizations to provide health education and community screenings



Created educational materials for community dissemination & developed partnerships to translate materials into Hindi & Bengali



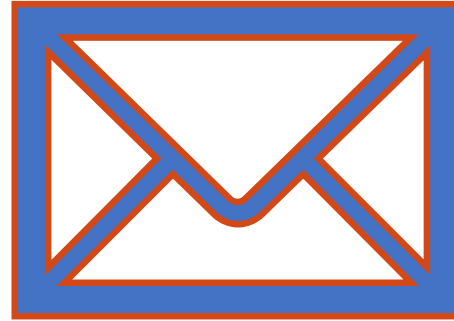
Developed and presented webinar using the South Asian focused Hepatitis basics slides



Held four external meetings with partners and potential partners to encourage networking and highlight these issues



Future endeavors will continue to focus on building awareness of Hep B and C in the South Asian community and supporting community organizations to outreach the population to get testing and care



Let's Connect! Follow us
@HepFreeNYC

Subscribe →
bit.ly/HepFreeNYCSubscribe

Monthly newsletters,
Meeting Invites

Stay updated with the
latest Hep B and C news,
jobs, funding and more!



COMMUNITY
WELFARE SERVICES
OF METRO DETROIT



Innovative Outreach Strategies for Hepatitis B

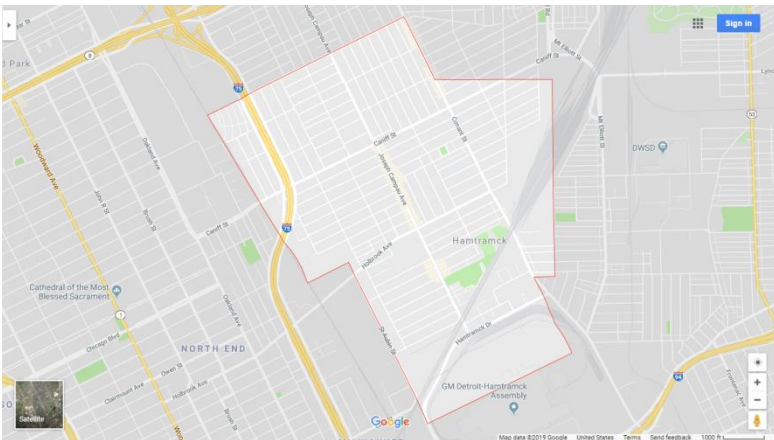
Background

- ▶ Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) found in their research that at least one-third of Asian Americans living in the United States are unaware of their chronic hepatitis B infection. CWSMD under MAHA survey in the city of Hamtramck, Detroit and Warren found the same scenario. Prompt identification of chronic hepatitis B infection is essential to ensure infected people receive necessary care to prevent or delay onset of liver disease and services to prevent transmission to others. Chronically infected patients have years of life to gain if medical evaluation and/or treatment is initiated early, before symptoms occur.

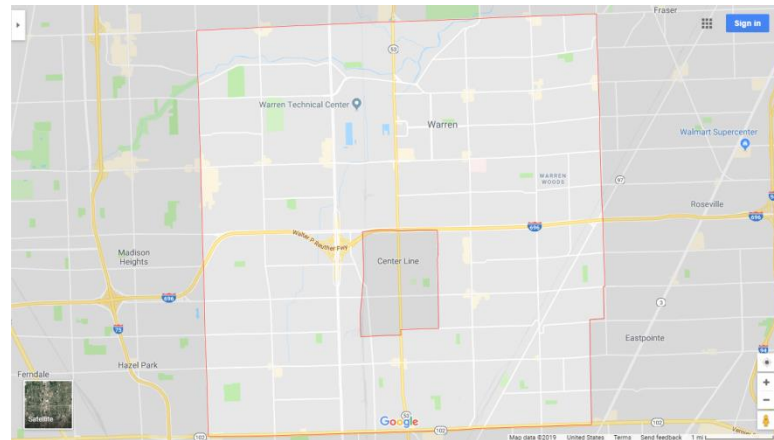
Demographics

- Occupations of our people include Factory workers, Restaurant Servers and Cashiers at Grocery Stores
- The average income of our people in Warren is \$22,000 a year
- The average income of our people in Detroit/Hamtramck is \$12,000 a year
- The education level of our people in these cities is low, most without a high school diploma or equivalent
- The unemployment rate of Bangladeshis in these cities is 5.37%

| | Hamtramck | Warren | Detroit | Total |
|------------------------|-----------|--------|---------|--------|
| Bangladeshi Population | 11000 | 7000 | 13600 | 31600 |
| Total Population | 35000 | 170000 | 694000 | 899000 |



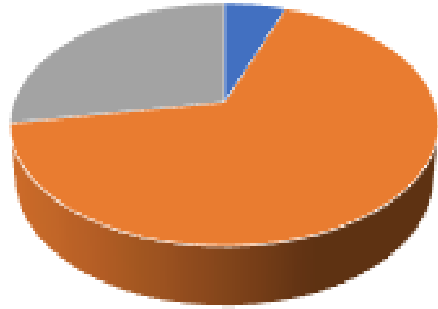
Hamtramck



Warren

HBV Tabulated Results from Hamtramck, MI

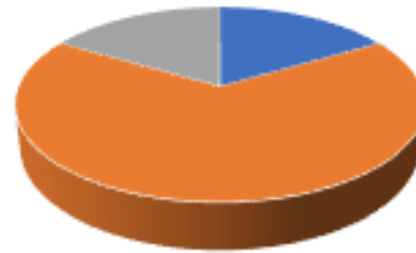
| | Survey questions | % Yes | % No | % Not sure |
|----|---|--------|--------|------------|
| 1 | Have you heard of HBV? | 66.67% | 27.78% | 5.56% |
| 2 | Do you know what HBV is? | 5.56% | 66.67% | 27.78% |
| 3 | Do you know how to check for HBV? | 11.11% | 66.67% | 22.22% |
| 4 | Do you know how HBV is spread? | 11.11% | 83.33% | 5.56% |
| 5 | Do you know how to protect yourself from HBV? | 16.67% | 66.67% | 16.67% |
| 6 | Do you think anyone you know has heard about HBV? | 11.11% | 33.33% | 55.56% |
| 7 | Have you been tested for HBV? | 5.56% | 38.89% | 55.56% |
| 8 | Have you been vaccinated for HBV? | 5.56% | 55.56% | 38.89% |
| 9 | Have you or your family members been treated for HBV? | 8.33% | 86.11% | 5.56% |
| 10 | Has a doctor or anyone ever told you that you have HBV? | 44.44% | 16.67% | 38.89% |
| 11 | If yes, have you ever been given treatment for HBV? | 55.56% | 22.22% | 22.22% |
| 12 | Would you be interested in getting screened for HBV? | 38.89% | 27.78% | 33.33% |
| 13 | Are any of your family members HBV carriers? | 38.89% | 33.33% | 27.78% |



■ 5.56% knows what HBV is

■ 66.67% do not know what HBV is

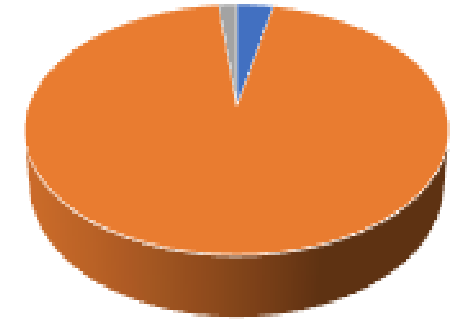
■ 27.78% not sure



■ 16.67% know how to protect themselves from HBV

■ 66.67% do not know how to protect themselves from HBV

■ 16.67% are not sure



■ 11.11% knows how it is spread

■ 83.33% do not know how it is spread

■ 5.56% are not sure

Needs of the Bangladeshi Community

Outreaching and educating
the Bangladeshi community

Screening for Hepatitis B

Preventative
measures/vaccination

Activities held thus far

- Formation of Advisory Board on HEPB
 - Consisting of 10 members straight from our community
- Educating in groups of 10 to 12 people on monthly basis
- A citywide education event held in our area, featuring food served at the events. Awareness is raised through fliers and public announcements made in places of worship

Outreach Strategies

- Distributing flyers in religious institutes, local groceries and online platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. Although the elderly are commonly illiterate, their children read and speak English and use Facebook. Our posts and advertisements will be made in both English and Bangla for maximum convenience.

Lessons Learned

- People are interested to know about and to be protected from Hepatitis B
- Awareness of Hepatitis B and its vaccine needs to be gained
- Residents lack knowledge on their rights and responsibilities

Challenges and Barriers to Health Information

- The only reliable sources for information about health are the residents' primary care doctor and the occasional events attended such as the Health Fair
- Barriers to sufficient health information include lack of knowledge regarding rights and responsibilities as a resident
- Language and Cultural barriers also present
- There are very few hospitals in the area
- There are Health Centers for uninsured people but are not many in number to accommodate the needs presented

Addressing the Challenges

- We translate the education and informative material in Bangla



Recommendation for Future Programs

- We aspire to address the community in groups of 10 to 15 twice a month
- Arrange bigger, major events twice a year featuring experts addressing this issue
- Start screening for Hepatitis B

Other Points

- Our community is massive and densely populated in Detroit, Hamtramck, Warren and many other cities in Michigan.
- We want to expand our voices and efforts through appropriate means which requires fundraising.

Conclusion

The results signify that educating our people on HBV vaccination is essential. Bangladeshi Community want to be the part of WHA target 'NOHEP 2030". And it is necessary to work on this program in the Bangladeshi Community. Good news is that our people enthusiastically want be educated, screened and vaccinated for HEP B.



COMMUNITY
WELFARE SERVICES
OF METRO DETROIT

A Community Based Study for Promoting Activities to Reduce Hepatitis B Virus

Activity: Survey in Bangladeshi Community in Hamtramck and its adjacent cities, Detroit and Warren of Michigan

By: Dr. Hong Liu, PhD, Mohammad Islam, Abdullah Islam



Midwest Asian
Health Association

Background

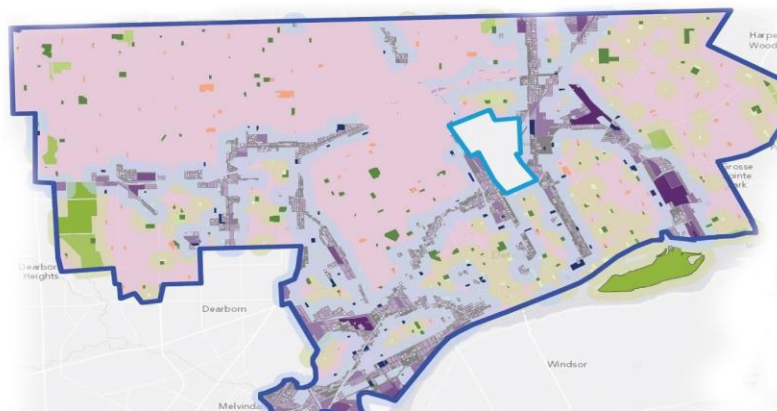
Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) found in their research that at least one-third of Asian Americans living in the United States are unaware of their chronic hepatitis B infection. CWSMD under MAHA survey in the city of Hamtramck, Detroit & Warren within Bangladeshi community found the same scenario. Prompt identification of chronic hepatitis B infection is essential to ensure infected people receive necessary care to prevent or delay onset of liver disease and services to prevent transmission to others. Chronically infected patients have years of life to gain if medical evaluation and/or treatment is initiated early, before symptoms occur.

Objective

In an effort to enhance HBV awareness, Community Welfare Services of Metro Detroit, a non-profit organization under the umbrella of MAHA (Midwest American Health Association) conducted a survey in the city of Hamtramck, Detroit & Warren Michigan. Hamtramck is a Detroit suburb in Wayne County, Michigan. It has a population of 20,000 with a median age of 28.3 and a median household income of \$23,609. The survey was conducted in 2018 and prominently included immigrants from Bangladesh.

Results

Results from the survey depict a gloomy picture of HBV awareness among the participants (Table 1). Majority of the participants were never tested or vaccinated for HBV. They had rudimentary knowledge about HBV but showed interest in HBV screening. Similar picture comes out from sample interrogation among the Bangladeshi American in the City of Detroit and Warren.



| Survey questions | % Yes | % No | % Not sure |
|--|--------|--------|------------|
| 1 Have you heard of HBV? | 66.67% | 27.78% | 5.56% |
| 2 Do you know what HBV is? | 5.56% | 66.67% | 27.78% |
| 3 Do you know how to check for HBV? | 11.11% | 66.67% | 22.22% |
| 4 Do you know how HBV is spread? | 11.11% | 83.33% | 5.56% |
| 5 Do you know how to protect yourself from HBV? | 16.67% | 66.67% | 16.67% |
| 6 Do you think anyone you know has heard about HBV? | 11.11% | 33.33% | 55.56% |
| 7 Have you been tested for HBV? | 5.56% | 38.89% | 55.56% |
| 8 Have you been vaccinated for HBV? | 5.56% | 55.56% | 38.89% |
| 9 Have you or your family members been treated for HBV? | 8.33% | 86.11% | 5.56% |
| 10 Has a doctor or anyone ever told you that you have HBV? | 44.44% | 16.67% | 38.89% |
| 11 If yes, have you ever been given treatment for HBV? | 55.56% | 22.22% | 22.22% |
| 12 Would you be interested in getting screened for HBV? | 38.89% | 27.78% | 33.33% |
| 13 Are any of your family members HBV carriers? | 38.89% | 33.33% | 27.78% |

Conclusions

Multiple medications have been approved for treatment of adults with chronic hepatitis B. Identifying people with chronic hepatitis B also allows for primary and secondary prevention. Close contacts can benefit from vaccination if never infected, or medical management if living chronic hepatitis B. Bangladeshi Community want to be the part of W HA target 'NOHEP 2030'. And it is necessary to work on this program in the Bangladeshi Community. Good news is people enthusiastically want be educated, screened and vaccinated for HEP B.

References

- [1] WHO global hepatitis report 2017
- [2] <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/populations/api.htm>
- [3] <https://www.hhs.gov/hepatitis/learn-about-viral-hepatitis/hepatitis-b-basics/index.html>
- [4] Mamun-Al-Mahtab, EJOHG, 10.5005/jp-journals-10018-1164, Past, present and future of HBV in Bangladesh



Community Welfare Services
of Metro Detroit (CWS)

3100 Caniff Street Hamtramck, MI-48212
(313) 871-7030, (586) 339-2027
Fax 586-261-1327
msaifulislam121@gmail.com



COMMUNITY
WELFARE SERVICES
OF METRO DETROIT

Contact Us!

- ▶ 3100 Caniff Hamtramck, MI 48212
- ▶ Phone: (586) 339-2027
- ▶ Fax: (586) 261-1327
- ▶ Email: saifulmislam453@gmail.com

Q&A



THANKS FOR JOINING!

CONNECT WITH US

E-MAIL: info@hepb.org / connect@hepbunited.org

www.hepb.org / www.hepbunited.org

