



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

**CITY OFFICIALS ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO GET
VACCINATED TO COMBAT COVID-19 VARIANTS**

San Francisco, along with all Bay Area counties, is seeing trend of rising COVID-19 cases due to delta variant

San Francisco, CA — Mayor London N. Breed, Board of Supervisors President Shamann Walton, and the Department of Public Health (DPH) today encouraged residents to get vaccinated as the delta variant of COVID-19 is now the dominant strain in the United States and California. This variant spreads more easily than the original virus and poses new risks to communities in San Francisco. Vaccines continue to be highly effective at preventing severe illness and death. Over the last three weeks, all Bay Area counties have seen at least a doubling of new COVID-19 cases, causing concern that unvaccinated people are more at risk than ever.

“Vaccinating as many people as possible, as soon as possible, is our best defense against COVID-19, the delta variant, and the harm it can do to our communities,” said Mayor Breed. “In particular, the Black community has the lowest vaccination rate compared to the citywide rate, which means more people who are already struggling with significant disparities in this City might get sick. While we beat back three surges in San Francisco, the delta variant brings new challenges that will continue to increase the disparities we see in communities of color. We need everyone to do their part to get vaccinated and encourage their friends and family to do the same.”

San Francisco's response to the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in low case rates and hospitalizations, and relatively high vaccination rates, with 83% of the eligible population with at least one dose and 76% of the eligible population fully vaccinated as of July 13. Over the week ending July 7, for which there is full data, average daily new cases have increased four-fold to 42 new cases/day from a low of 9.9 cases/day on June 19. Forward looking data through July 12 indicates that new cases will increase to at least 73 cases/day, a seven-fold increase since June 19.

“As we have seen since the beginning of the pandemic, COVID-19 infections are not distributed evenly throughout all neighborhoods and communities in San Francisco,” said Dr. Grant Colfax, Director of Public Health. “Our focus and work to achieve vaccine equity and access continues in partnership with the communities that are most impacted. Get vaccinated – hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID-19 are preventable through vaccines.”



Those who are not yet vaccinated should continue to follow the health precautions that work to help curtail the spread of COVID-19 and to prevent new variants from emerging: wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth when you have to go outside, stay at least 6 feet away from others, when able choose outdoor settings versus indoor, and wash your hands frequently after touching your face or touching shared objects. People who develop or show any symptoms should get tested, even if they are fully vaccinated.

“Bayview Hunters Point is still one of the hardest hit areas with COVID-19 infections, particularly in the African American community. With the new delta variant that is more transmissible, it is critical that our community gets vaccinated as soon as possible,” said Shamann Walton, President of the Board of Supervisors.

San Francisco continues to make vaccines accessible to all residents through sites located in neighborhoods and through mobile vaccine efforts. In the Bayview, the Southeast Health Center (2401 Keith Street) is offering vaccines – no appointment needed – Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00am to 7:00pm, and Saturdays from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Vaccines are also available at 1800 Oakdale, with drop-ins available on Fridays and Saturday from 9:30am to 3:00pm. For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, visit sf.gov/getvaccinated.

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