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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2020

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***** Media Advisory *****
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Daily Update
March 16, 2020

Current Status:

Confirmed Case Status:

- Number of positive cases: 40
- Number of deaths: 0

There are 3 new cases to report today.

The City and County of San Francisco is focused implementing social distancing and avoiding overcrowding to disrupt COVID-19 and protect community health. We caution the media and the public for relying too heavily on confirmed case count as an indicator of the situation in San Francisco. The most important thing people can do is practice social distancing, maintain good hygiene and look out for one another.

Confirmed cases in San Francisco are still available on the Department of Public Health website at sfdph.org. Updates will be made when possible.

GENERAL UPDATES

San Francisco Health Orders Issued:

- [Order Limiting Hospital Visitors \(3/13/20\)](#)
- [Order Prohibiting All Large Group Events of 100 or more persons \(3/13/2020\)](#)
- [Order Prohibiting Visitors to Long-Term Care Facilities \(3/12/2020\)](#)
- [Order on Cleaning for Residential Hotels/Single-Room Occupancy \(SRO\) Hotels \(3/10/2020\)](#)

- [Order Prohibiting Gatherings at City-Owned Locations](#) (3/7/2020)
- [Order Prohibiting Visitors to Laguna Honda Hospital](#) (3/7/2020)
- [Declaration of Local Health Emergency](#) (3/6/2020)

All City and County of San Francisco Public Health Orders can be found at <https://www.sfdph.org/dph/alerts/coronavirus-healthorders.asp>

Commercial Lab Testing Availability:

The CDC has published updated information regarding the commercial availability for the testing of COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>). In California, all positive COVID-19 cases will be reported to the appropriate county public health agencies.

The SFDPH Public Health Laboratory will continue to test for COVID-19 with a focus on minimizing the spread of infection in San Francisco's vulnerable, at-risk populations. Media b-roll of the COVID-19 testing at the SFDPH Public Health Laboratory is downloadable at <https://bit.ly/38n5dJz>

Information on testing is now posted on the SFDPH website: <https://www.sfdph.org/dph/alerts/coronavirus-testing.asp>

Social Distancing Update:

Here are [Public health recommendations](#) about social distancing. Updates by category are as follows:

Vulnerable Populations

- Mayor London N. Breed announced that the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) will no longer shut off water or power for delinquent payments, and that both the SFPUC and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) will no longer add penalties on to delinquent payments during the City's Local Emergency response to coronavirus. These actions are part of the City's response to reduce financial impacts on individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Link to the announcement here.](#)
- Mayor London N. Breed Friday announced that the Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco has issued a Public Health Order prohibiting all non-essential events of 100 or more persons. This measure is necessary to slow the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the community. The Order is in effect until April 30, 2020. [Link to the announcement here.](#)
- To protect vulnerable people in hospitals, San Francisco's Health Officer issued limitations on hospital visitations. [Link to order here.](#)
- Mayor London N. Breed announced a moratorium on residential evictions related to financial impacts caused by COVID-19. The moratorium will prevent any resident from being evicted due to a loss of income related to a business closure, loss of hours or wages, layoffs, or out-of-pocket medical costs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. [Link to the announcement here.](#)

- Gatherings of individuals who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 should be limited to no more than 10 people, while also following social distancing guidelines.
- San Francisco announced \$5 million in new investments, as well as a Public Health Order to protect vulnerable populations who are at risk of becoming ill or dying if they contract COVID-19. These emergency funds and Order will focus on reducing risk of exposure to the virus for the many marginally housed seniors, people with underlying health conditions, and individuals experiencing homelessness, living in shelters, single-room occupancy hotels (SROs), and Permanent Supportive Housing. [Link to the announcement here.](#)
- Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing have deployed 20 handwashing stations throughout San Francisco to complement Pit Stops. [Link to the map of locations here.](#)
- City to provide temporary housing for individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 and do not need to be hospitalized, as well as individuals who have been exposed to the virus and do not have access to adequate shelter due to homelessness or shared living arrangements. Temporary isolation housing will include recreational vehicles (RVs). Auxiliary quarantine housing will include unoccupied residential property. [Link to the announcement here.](#)
- To ensure the safety of residents, staff and visitors, San Francisco's Health Officer issued an order restricting visitors to Laguna Honda Hospital. [Link to the order here.](#)
- To extend protections for vulnerable populations in long-term care facilities, San Francisco's Health Officer issued an order restricting visitors from all of the City's 18 private long-term care facilities. [Link to the announcement here.](#)

Workplace and Businesses

- Mayor London N. Breed announced a Workers and Families First Program to provide paid sick leave to private sector workers who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. [Link to the announcement here.](#)
- Mayor London N. Breed and City Administrator Naomi M. Kelly announced that the City and County of San Francisco's Give2SF Fund allows the City to accept tax-deductible monetary contributions, which can be spent on various City efforts to respond to the novel coronavirus outbreak and support residents and small businesses. [Link to the announcement here.](#)
- DPH has issued Minimum Environmental Cleaning Standards for Business, Schools, and SRO Settings, which provides guidance of the cleaning and disinfection standards for rooms or common areas of those with suspected or with confirmed COVID-19 have visited. [Link to the guidance here.](#)
- The American Chemistry Council's (ACC) Center for Biocide Chemistries (CBC) has compiled a list of products that have been pre-approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for use against COVID-19. [Link to the list of products here.](#)
- Mayor London Breed announced measures for small business relief in response to economic impacts from COVID-19. [Link to the announcement here.](#)
- City employees who do not have paid leave available and cannot work due to circumstances related to the COVID-19 emergency, now have the option to get an advance on their paid sick leave or vacation. Encourages private companies to implement similar policies. [Link to the announcement here.](#)

Large Gatherings

- Mayor London N. Breed Friday announced that the Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco has issued a [Public Health Order](#) prohibiting all non-essential events of 100 or more persons. This measure is necessary to slow the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the community and builds on the City's previous Order to prohibit large events with 1,000 people or more. The Order is effective immediately. [Link to the announcement here.](#)
- To ensure the health and safety of staff and the public, San Francisco's Health Officer issued an order restricting the use of certain specified City-owned buildings for "Non-Essential Group Events." [Order Prohibiting Gatherings at City-Owned Locations](#) (3/7/2020)

Schools

- Beginning March 17, SFUSD will provide free breakfast and lunch to all children 18 and younger at 14 pick-up sites Monday through Friday. [Link to the announcement here.](#)
- SFUSD announced closure of all public schools for three weeks, beginning Monday, March 16 through the end of regularly scheduled spring break (which ends Friday, April 3). [Link to the announcement here.](#)
- The Archdiocese of San Francisco will close its school buildings and cancel classes and student-related activities from March 12 - March 25. [Link to the announcement here.](#)

City Facilities

- San Francisco Human Services Agency Centers Temporarily Close: Starting Monday, March 16th, HSA Service Center lobbies will temporarily close to the public in response to public health guidance to reduce the spread of coronavirus. Representatives are still available to meet essential service needs and receive applications without interruption by phone, online, and email. Find support for public benefits, disability and aging services at sfhsa.org/coronavirus, or call (415) 557-5000.

Service Center Closures:

- 2 Gough Street
 - 1440 Harrison Street
 - 1235 Mission Street
 - 77 Otis Street
 - 170 Otis Street
- Mayor London N. Breed announced that beginning Monday, March 16, the Recreation and Park Department and the San Francisco Public Library will begin to operate libraries and indoor recreation facilities as emergency care facilities for children of parents on the front lines of the COVID-19 outbreak and low-income families. Both agencies will suspend regular indoor programming effective Friday, March 13 at 6 p.m. [Link to the announcement here.](#)

Transit

There are no updates today.

Health Care Settings

- To ensure the safety of residents, staff and visitors, San Francisco's Health Officer issued an order restricting visitors to Laguna Honda Hospital. [Link to the order here.](#)
- To extend protections for vulnerable populations in long-term care facilities, San Francisco's Health Officer issued an order restricting visitors from all of the City's 18 private long-term care facilities. [Link to the announcement here.](#)
- To protect vulnerable people in hospitals, San Francisco's Health Officer issued limitations on hospital visitations. [Link to order here.](#)

Everyone: Do Your Part

- Avoid non-essential large gatherings and maintain social distancing (at least 6 feet)
- Look out for each other. Check on, by phone or online, older adults, people with underlying medical conditions and other who may be vulnerable and socially isolated.
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your cough or sneeze.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Try alternatives to shaking hands, like a wave.

Stay Informed:

For the latest news on COVID-19, visit sfdph.org and sign up for the City's alert service for official updates: text **COVID19SF** to **888-777**.