



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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

**SAN FRANCISCO ANNOUNCES FIRST DEATH OF A CITY
RESIDENT WITH NOVEL CORONAVIRUS**

San Franciscans urged to stay at home to slow the spread of the virus

San Francisco, CA — The City and County of San Francisco today announced the first death of a resident with COVID-19, the disease caused by coronavirus. The man who died was in his 40s and had multiple, significant underlying health conditions. Mayor London N. Breed and City health officials urge San Franciscans to stay at home to slow the spread of the virus and save lives.

“My condolences go out to this San Franciscan and their loved ones. It is a sad day, and we need to pull together as a City to do everything in our power to reduce the likelihood of additional deaths in our community,” said Mayor Breed. “Each of us has the power to save lives and decrease the impact of coronavirus in San Francisco. We need everyone to stay home, which will help protect themselves, their families, and the people in our community who are most at risk of harm from the virus.”

There are currently over 2,500 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in California. The person who died in San Francisco is among the 152 confirmed cases of the virus among City residents.

“Nearly three weeks after reporting our first confirmed case of COVID-19, we are saddened to report the first death of a person with this illness in San Francisco,” said Dr. Grant Colfax, Director of Health. “From the beginning of this outbreak, we have focused on protecting vulnerable populations—including people with chronic health conditions—because we know they are at greater risk of getting very sick and even dying from COVID-19. On behalf of the Department of Public Health, I extend my sincere condolences to this man’s loved ones. This is a difficult time for our city, but we will get through it together. I strongly urge every San Franciscan to continue staying home to save lives.”

The Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco has issued a [Public Health Order](#) requiring that residents stay in their homes, with few exceptions, through April 7, 2020. This order is designed to protect community health by slowing the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. These are systemic as well as individual changes that will make a difference in people’s lives.

Even people engaged in the essential activities described in the order must practice the following to avoid getting sick and to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



- Stay at least 6 feet away from other people when on essential outings such as grocery shopping, riding public transit to an essential job, or walking your dog.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your cough or sneeze.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Do not shake hands.
- Keep common spaces clean to help maintain a healthy environment for you and others. Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned regularly with disinfecting sprays, wipes or common household cleaning products.

Stay home altogether if you are sick, 60+ years of age, and/or have certain underlying health conditions. Make sure you have a supply of essential medications for your family. Plan for how you can care for a sick family member without getting sick yourself. Take care of each other and check in by phone with friends, family and neighbors that are vulnerable to serious illness or death if they get COVID-19.

There is no recommendation to wear masks at this time to prevent yourself from getting sick. If you are sick, first call your health care provider; if you must leave your home to seek medical treatment, you may wear a mask or similar personal protective equipment (PPE) to prevent spreading illness to others.

Find the answers to frequently asked questions about the order at [SF.gov/coronavirus](https://www.sfdph.org/coronavirus).

Other Public Health Orders and recommendations from DPH can be found at [sfdph.org/dph/alerts/coronavirus.asp](https://www.sfdph.org/dph/alerts/coronavirus.asp). Mayoral declarations regarding COVID-19 can be found at [sfmayor.org/mayoral-declarations-regarding-covid-19](https://www.sfmayor.org/mayoral-declarations-regarding-covid-19).

For more information, you can also call 311. For official updates, sign up for the City's alert service: text COVID19SF to 888-777.

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