



San Francisco Department of Public Health

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Statement on Division Street Public Health Notice by Barbara Garcia, Director of Health, City and County of San Francisco

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The Health Department's Homeless Outreach Team has been working for months with people living in tents on Division Street. Though we have been able to match many people to resources, we remain extremely concerned about the health and well-being of this population. Unfortunately, conditions where multiple tents are congregated have become unsafe. People are living without access to running water, bathrooms, trash disposal or safe heating or cooking facilities.

Therefore, the San Francisco Department of Public Health today posted notices outlining public health concerns on Division Street. These notices provide 72 hours to vacate Division Street between South Van Ness Avenue and 11th Street on the east and west sides.

The Homeless Outreach Team will make concerted efforts within the next 72 hours to encourage people to relocate to other locations, including the new shelter at Pier 80.

Background info:

The Health Director made the determination of a public health nuisance after consultation with inspectors from the Environmental Health branch, pursuant to Article 11 of the San Francisco Health Code. Applicable conditions include:

- (1) Any accumulation of filth, garbage, decayed or spoiled food, unsanitary debris or waste material or decaying animal or vegetable matter

The encampments bordering the areas between South Van Ness Avenue and 11th Street, on both the east and west sides of Division Street are unsanitary due to accumulation of garbage, human feces, hypodermic needles, urine odors and other unsanitary conditions.

Today's public health notice is a continuation of effort that includes months of outreach to people who have been living in tents and on the street in this area. As the City has made more options available to homeless people, such as Project Homeless Connect, the Navigation Center, the Homeward Bound program, the winter shelters, the El Nino shelters and now the new shelter on Pier 80, we are working closely with homeless people to provide them with options. The Health Department's expanded Homeless Outreach Team will continue to work to connect them to available resources.