



## San Francisco Department of Public Health

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### **SF Health Department Earns National Public Health Accreditation Recognition of Excellence *SF becomes ninth in California to gain accreditation***

#### **For Immediate Release**

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SAN FRANCISCO (March 22, 2017) – The San Francisco Department of Public Health has been granted national accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), becoming the ninth health department in California to secure that distinction. The accreditation is effective March 14 and remains in place for five years.

The accreditation program (<http://www.phaboard.org/>) was established in 2011 and has accredited 200 of the country's nearly 3,000 public health departments so far. San Francisco is on the leading edge of this effort that will establish quality and performance standards for continuous improvement in service of the public's health nationwide.

"Throughout the five-year accreditation process we often talked about our commitment to be the best at getting better," said Dr. Tomás Aragón, San Francisco Health Officer. "Achieving public health accreditation is part of the overall journey to becoming a high performing, learning organization. Our success was possible only because we have the best staff, leadership and governing body. They embraced the challenge."

In awarding San Francisco's accreditation, the PHAB wrote: "This health department is well respected by their community, their governing authority, and local elected officials. Their management and leadership are seasoned and skilled public health professionals who have passion for their work and commitment to their community. They are organized in a way that allows for efficient delivery of public health services."

Accreditation is an exhaustive process of demonstrating performance standards in multiple areas, including addressing community health issues and hazards, public education, long-term planning, policies and procedures and comprehensive public health infrastructure.

"We are proud to be recognized for achieving national public health standards for effectiveness and continuous quality improvement," said Barbara Garcia, Health Director. "The accreditation process affirms that the programs and services we provide are responsive to the needs of our community. With accreditation, the Health Department is demonstrating increased accountability and credibility to our patients, community partners, staff and providers, and the entire city" [PHAB press release](#)

## About SF Department of Public Health

The Mission of the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) is to protect and promote the health of all San Franciscans. SFDPH strives to achieve its mission through the work of two main Divisions – the San Francisco Health Network and Population Health. The San Francisco Health Network is the City's only complete system of care and has locations throughout the City, including Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center, Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center, and 15 neighborhood based primary care health centers. With a broad community focus, the ultimate goal of the Population Health Division is to ensure that San Franciscans have optimal health and wellness at every stage of life, and, to achieve this, the Division is comprised of various branches dedicated to core public health services for the City and County of San Francisco, such as health protection and promotion, disease and injury prevention, disaster preparedness and response, and environmental health services.

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