



## San Francisco Department of Public Health

Grant Colfax, MD  
Director of Health

City and County of San Francisco  
London N. Breed  
Mayor

# Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of April 16, 2019

*A current overview of issues affecting the state of public health in San Francisco*  
<https://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/insideDept/dirRpts/default.asp>

### State Policy Update

#### Legislation on Conservatorship and Substance Use Treatment in Jails Progress through State Legislature

On April 10<sup>th</sup>, Mayor London Breed and San Francisco Department of Public Health staff testified before the state legislature in support of two bills: SB 40 (Wiener) Conservatorship for serious mental illness and substance use disorders, and AB 1557 (Chiu) Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Drug Reimbursement Pilot Program. SB 40 provides follow-up language to last year's bill SB 1045, which expanded and strengthened California's conservatorship laws with the aim of better meeting the needs of individuals who have serious mental illness and substance use disorders. SB 40 proposes several changes to SB 1045, including shortening timeframes for the conservatorship (from one-year to a six-month conservatorship), adjusting requirements for seeking assisted outpatient treatment (AOT), and providing allowances for temporary 28-day conservatorship. AB 1557 would create a three-year opt-in pilot program for San Francisco county jail to receive state funding for a MAT program using FDA-approved medications. Following the testimony, both bills unanimously passed out of their respective committees and are continuing through the legislative process.

#### Notification of Possible Measles Exposures

DPH issued a notification on April 9 regarding possible measles exposures in San Francisco between April 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. During this time, an adult visited several locations in San Francisco while contagious with measles. There has been no outbreak, and the risk to the general public is very low. However, people without immunity could potentially develop measles if they were exposed at one of the locations on specific times and days, including Caltrain, Muni, Hayes Valley Bakeworks, Federal Building, and Johnny Doughnuts.

San Francisco benefits from high rates of vaccination against measles. Most people have received measles vaccine ("MMR") as children and are immune. However, unvaccinated children, unvaccinated adults born in 1957 or later, and those with severely weakened immune systems were advised to review the list of locations and to watch for symptoms of illness including fever, cough



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runny nose, red eyes, followed by a red rash that starts on the head or face. The press release was widely circulated and the story was covered by KRON 4, KCBS radio, ABC7, KTVU, KPIX, NBC11, KTSF, San Francisco Chronicle and Univision.

### **DPH helps with “420” preparations**

The annual “420” gathering in Golden Gate Park this Saturday is expected to draw a crowd of more than 20,000 to celebrate and consume cannabis. For the past several years, city leaders and agencies have worked with event organizers and the community to protect public health and safety. Dr. Tomas Aragon will represent DPH at a press conference hosted by Supervisor Vallie Brown on the event.

The Health Department’s key messages are to consume cannabis only from a legal and licensed SF retailer, do not consume any street drug (e.g., “synthetic cannabis”), and to prepare for any possible overdoses.. In addition to increasing EMS staff, numerous city staff have been trained by DPH to administer naloxone (an opioid antagonist). Last year several attendees were transported to local hospitals after overdosing on opioid drugs (not cannabis).

The DPH Departmental Operations Center will be activated with Population Health Division Branches working to: (1) Prevent overdoses and OD complications (2) Ensure surveillance and early detection (3) Ensure emergency medical services and transport (4) Ensure hospital notification and readiness (5) Monitor hospital and EMS surge (6) Ensure public and interagency communications (7) Ensure food safety and (8) Coordinate with other city departments such as Rec & Park, Fire, Police, Office of Cannabis.

### **Regional push for STD awareness and testing**

April is sexually transmitted disease (STD) awareness month, and DPH is joining with Bay Area health officials to urge everyone who is sexually active, especially young people, women, transgender people and men who have sex with men to take charge of their sexual health.

STD testing and prevention is now more crucial than ever because rates are continuing to rise, increasing steadily in San Francisco and statewide since 2013. Rates of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis continue to grow, and syphilis has re-emerged as a significant public health concern. In California, 283 infants were born with syphilis in 2017. In San Francisco, between 2017 and 2018, the number of women with syphilis has increased 144% to 71.



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Chlamydia is the most common reportable disease in California. This disease, like most STDs, is easily preventable and treatable but can cause serious health problems such as infertility if left untreated. In San Francisco, between 2013 and 2017, reported cases of chlamydia rose 79% from 5,085 to 9,094. Many of these cases are in young women.

Chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis are curable with antibiotics. Yet these infections can go undiagnosed and untreated, which can lead to infertility, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth and increased HIV risk. In San Francisco, the Health Department's City Clinic is dedicated to sexual health, helping patients to prevent, test and treat sexually transmitted diseases.

DPH is encouraging San Franciscans to follow five easy steps to fight STDs: use condoms, get tested, get vaccinated for Hep A, Hep B and HPV, have honest conversations with sexual partners and talk to your provider about STDs.

### **Public Health Week**

Thank you to everyone who followed us on facebook and twitter during National Public Health Week, April 1-7. We gained over 100 new followers and told stories of our work in the shelters, at Navigation Centers, and on the streets. Our most successful tweet was a picture of Dr. Barry Zevin coming out of a rainy tent during a SOMA health fair, and was seen by over 8,000 people. If you haven't already, please follow us on [facebook](#) (@sfpublichealth) and [twitter](#) @SF\_DPH and please like, tweet, and share with your networks.

### **Imperfect produce event at Southeast Health Center**

The Bayview is a "food desert" and has less access to fresh produce and healthy foods. Southeast Health Center and Imperfect Produce have formed a partnership, where free food is available every Monday and Wednesday at the clinic. To celebrate, a special event will be held at Southeast Health Center on Wednesday, April 17 at 10am, with Imperfect Produce giving out produce to the community. Imperfect Produce buys crops that are cosmetically-challenged from farmers and sells and distributes them to people in need.

### **DPH in the News (April 1-16)**

Fixing San Francisco's Behavioral Health System is Complicated – Here's Why



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<https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/Fixing-San-Francisco-s-behavioral-health-system-13761497.php>

Measles Health Alert – Infected Person may have Exposed Others at some San Francisco Locations

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Measles-health-alert-Infected-person-may-have-13754474.php>

Health Officials Warn Public of Possible Measles Exposure

<https://abc7news.com/health/health-officials-warn-public-of-possible-measles-exposure-in-sf/5240357/>

Possible Measles Exposure in San Francisco

<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/Possible-Measles-Exposure-in-San-Francisco-508331891.html>

San Francisco Health Officials Warn of Possible Measles Exposure

<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2019/04/09/san-francisco-health-officials-warn-possible-measles-exposure/>

Public Health Officials Release Cautious Measles Advisory in SF

<http://www.sfweekly.com/news/public-health-officials-release-cautious-measles-advisory-in-sf/>

Monthly shots control HIV as well as pills in 2 big studies

<http://www.independent.com.mt/articles/2019-04-09/health/Monthly-shots-control-HIV-as-well-as-pills-in-2-big-studies-6736206398>

States move to legalize CBD to end confusion over US rules

<https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/texas-california-hope-cbd-legalization-will-end-confusion-over-u-n991456>

Treasure Island Tetra Tech EC Work Is Safe: Navy Report

<https://oaklandnewsnow.com/index.php/2019/04/05/treasure-island-tetra-tech-ec-work-is-safe-navy-report/>

Unique CARE Offered At Zuckerberg SF General Hospital

<https://omny.fm/shows/kcbsam-on-demand/unique-care-offered-at-zuckerberg-sf-general-hospi>



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Nurses backing ballot measure to strip Zuckerberg's name from SF General

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/the-city/nurses-backing-ballot-measure-to-strip-zuckerbergs-name-from-sf-general/>

Homelessness A Major Challenge In Eliminating New HIV Infections In San Francisco

<https://kcbsradio.radio.com/blogs/jenna-lane/homelessness-hurts-san-franciscos-efforts-eliminate-new-hiv-infections>

With black babies, moms at high risk in SF, project pairs them with caregivers

<https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Black-babies-mothers-die-at-a-staggering-rate-in-13745368.php?t=a22e8f9b6d>

Dem Lawmaker Pushes U.S. Surgeon General for Gun Violence Report

<https://washingtoninformer.com/dem-lawmaker-pushes-u-s-surgeon-general-for-gun-violence-report/>

Are e-consults right for your practice?

<http://exclusive.multibriefs.com/content/are-e-consults-right-for-your-practice/healthcare-administration>

New Mental Health Team has a Big Job Ahead and Members get Big Salaries

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/SF-new-mental-health-team-has-a-big-job-ahead-and-13727457.php>