



## 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 November 5, 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>

#### **Kincade Fire Response**

The Kincade Fire in Sonoma County has burned over 76K acres, and destroyed more than 282 structures including 141 homes. On Sunday, October 27, Mayor London Breed issued a proclamation declaring a local emergency to provide mutual aid in response to the Fire. As a result of the unprecedented emergency evacuation of about 200,000 people, the Human Services Agency (HSA) and the American Red Cross provided shelter for 200 people at St. Mary's Cathedral. During these types of emergencies, City Departments, including the Department of Public Health, Human Services Agency, and the Department of Emergency Management provide mutual aid to neighboring communities needing resources. In this particular instance, our medical team, organized by Dr. Hali Hammer and led by Shelter Health Nurse Kate Shuton, provided medical and behavioral health support for evacuees at the shelter. Stephanie Cushing, Director of the Environmental Health Branch and Dr. Julie Stoltey and Amie DuBois from Communicable Disease combined forces to inspect the shelter to protect against outbreaks of gastrointestinal and respiratory infections.

We monitored the Emergency Medical System (includes ambulances) and SF Hospital systems for potential impacts or surges. We monitored Air Quality and PG&E Power Safety shutoffs which impacted residents and staff. We supplied Public Information Officer staffing to the Sonoma County Emergency Operations Center, as well as for the San Francisco Emergency Operations Center at 1011 Turk Street. Our Department Operations Center, set up by Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response to monitor PSPS power shutoffs, stayed open through the incident, monitoring, informing and directing response to the incident. A big thanks to all who participated.

If you want to help support the disaster victims, financial donations are best. Food, clothing and household items are not being accepted at this time. More information here:

<https://socoemergency.org/home/recover/how-to-help/>



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### Office of Health Equity

Mayor London Breed signed legislation on October 1 to create the San Francisco Office of Racial Equity. This is a historic commitment by our city to address the deep inequities that persist here. As Mayor Breed said that day, “We need action. We need consistency. We need a change like never before.” The Office of Racial Equity will sit within the Human Rights Commission (HRC), adding to its long-standing role as the principal champion for equity across the city. The HRC, through the Office of Racial Equity, will help city departments advance racial equity in every service. The SF Office of Racial Equity also will enforce two new requirements in the ordinance: all city agencies must make formal plans for how to advance racial equity and report on their progress, and they must designate staff and resources toward achieving their equity goals.

We share Mayor Breed’s vision and racial justice priorities. To ensure robust participation in this important work, we have established a DPH Office of Health Equity to align and coordinate with the HRC. The new DPH Office of Health Equity will have increased support for training and engagement and monitoring of equity efforts. The office represents an evolution of the former Office of Interdivisional Initiatives, reflecting the need to focus specifically on equity across the Department. The office will sit directly under the Director of Health and be led by Dr. Ayanna Bennett, who led Interdivisional Initiatives and currently leads the Black/African- American Health Initiative (BAAHI) as well as other key equity initiatives. BAAHI will continue under the Health Equity Office’s oversight. Equity work is the responsibility of every DPH employee. The DPH Office of Health Equity will start by creating and overseeing the department-wide annual equity plan, assist sections in creating their own equity plans, formulate policies that support a healing and anti-racist workplace, and support delivery of high-quality care that decreases health disparities. The DPH Office of Health Equity also will have oversight of the Trauma Informed Systems program, and the Community Wellness Program at the HopeSF public housing sites. Over the next several weeks and months, you will see announcements of DPH policy changes as the Office of Health Equity joins with leaders and staff to meet our equity goals.

### Mayor leads groundbreaking for Maxine Hall Health Center

Maxine Hall Health Center will temporarily move for a building remodel on Nov. 5, 2019 to a manufactured clinic at 1181 Golden Gate Ave. In October, Mayor London N. Breed, Supervisor Vallie Brown, Dr. Grant Colfax, and other city leaders broke ground on the remodel project at 1301 Pierce Street, which will improve safety in an earthquake. In addition to seismically retrofitting the building, the project will reconfigure its spaces – enabling all patients for the first time to access the second floor with the addition of an elevator. Reconfiguring the second floor will make room for



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larger exam rooms, seven additional patient rooms, and a patient group meeting room. The reconfiguration will increase access to health services by co-locating primary care, behavioral health and ancillary services. To prepare for the temporary move on Nov. 5, Maxine Hall Health Center was closed on Nov. 1 and 4. Construction is scheduled to start in November 2019. Westside Community Services (shares building) will serve its patients on Pierce Street in a manufactured clinic and in part of the building during construction. This project is mainly funded through the 2016 Public Health & Safety Bond, which voters approved by nearly 80%. The Mayor's Office on Disability contributed \$1.2 million for the elevator and other accessibility improvements. Learn more about the Maxine Hall remodel: [www.sfhealthnetwork.org/maxinehallhc-capitalproject/](http://www.sfhealthnetwork.org/maxinehallhc-capitalproject/).

### **Human Resources Changes**

Ron Weigelt, Human Resources Director for the Department of Public Health resigned effective November 1. I join the DPH executive team in thanking Ron for his commitment to the Health Department, where he has served as Human Resources Director since 2013. We are committed to continuing to improve our human resources functions, and are looking forward to bringing on a new leader to take us in that direction. I am happy to announce the new DPH Director of Human Resources, Michael Brown, who started November 4, 2019. We are fortunate to have someone with Michael's qualifications join the department in this vital role. As the current Executive Officer of the San Francisco Civil Service Commission, and with more than 20 years of human resources experience at the Health Department previously, Michael has the background and commitment to lead the department to accomplish our human resources (HR) goals.

There are big changes coming in HR. Equity and efficiency are among our top priorities, and I have asked Michael to focus on these two key themes. These priorities will be reflected across HR, including reducing hiring times, improving the hiring process, creating more opportunities for promotion and job satisfaction throughout DPH, and developing feedback loops to improve communication between HR and every division of the department.

### **Heart of the City**

The Heart of the City Combined Charities Campaign is in full swing. The City Wide goal is to raise \$1.5 million. To date, nearly \$811,000 has been raised from employees within various departments under the City of San Francisco umbrella. The deadline for submitting donations is December 6th. If you have specific questions, please feel free to reach out to one of DPH's Charity Captains: Max Brand at 415.759.4611 or at [maximillian.brand@sfdph.org](mailto:maximillian.brand@sfdph.org) or Marvin McGregor at 628.206.2635 [marvin.mcgregor@sfdph.org](mailto:marvin.mcgregor@sfdph.org). We are also looking for more people who are willing to



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take the lead within their department to help spread the word since many employees do not have direct access to email or a computer.

### **DPH in the News (Oct 16, 2019- Nov 1, 2019)**

#### **Supervisors Seeking To Reform City's Mental Health Care System Move Forward With Plan**

<https://www.sfgate.com/news/bayarea/article/Supervisors-Seeking-To-Reform-City-s-Mental-14592926.php>

#### **Tensions flare over mental health measure as talks continue on possible compromise**

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/tensions-flare-over-mental-health-measure-as-talks-continue-on-possible-compromise/>

#### **Civil Services Commission head to lead human resources at Department of Public Health**

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/civil-services-commission-head-to-lead-human-resources-at-department-of-public-health/>

#### **Director confirms policy changes around housing homeless pregnant women**

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/director-confirms-policy-changes-around-housing-homeless-pregnant-women/>

#### **As wildfires foul California air, residents are wearing face masks. But they really need respirators**

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/10/29/getty-kincade-fire-california-air-quality-respirators-surgical-masks/4095000002/>

#### **Health officials say N95 masks to filter wildfire smoke may do more harm than good**

<https://www.sfgate.com/california-wildfires/article/Health-officials-say-N95-masks-to-filter-wildfire-14560537.php>

#### **Court to hear lawsuit challenging health care 'conscience' rule**

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/court-to-hear-lawsuit-challenging-health-care-conscience-rule/>

#### **New Meth 'Sobering Centers' Top San Francisco's Plans to Address Drug Crisis**

<http://www.capoliticalreview.com/capoliticalnewsandviews/new-meth-sobering-centers-top-san-franciscos-plans-to-address-drug-crisis/>

#### **Hospital Asks For Public's Help To Identify Male Patient**

<https://www.sfgate.com/news/bayarea/article/Hospital-Asks-For-Public-s-Help-To-Identify-Male-14569922.php>

#### **Patient's attorney files claim against SF over Laguna Honda abuse: 'He's angry. He wants answers'**

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/patients-attorney-files-claim-against-sf-over-laguna-honda-abuse-hes-angry-he-wants-answers/>

#### **Downed trees, damaged power lines, delayed public transport all due to high winds on Sunday**

<https://hoodline.com/2019/10/downed-trees-damaged-power-lines-delayed-public-transport-all-due-to-high-winds-on-sunday>



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### **SF opens shelter for Kincade Fire evacuees at St. Mary's Cathedral**

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/sf-to-open-shelter-for-kincade-fire-evacuees-at-st-marys-cathedral/>  
<https://sfbay.ca/2019/10/28/sf-opens-disaster-shelter-for-kincade-fire-evacuees/>

### **Sonoma County under siege — crews brace for fierce winds to hit Kincade Fire amid mass evacuations**

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/california-wildfires/article/Sonoma-County-under-siege-crews-brace-for-14565705.php>

### **Sonoma County under siege -- crews brace for fierce winds to hit Kincade Fire amid mass evacuations**

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/california-wildfires/article/Sonoma-County-under-siege-crews-brace-for-14565705.php>

### **Bay Area air quality: Kincade Fire smoke could be blown from region**

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/california-wildfires/article/Kincade-Fire-keeps-growing-as-firefighters-fear-14564573.php>

### **Kincade Fire swells as firefighters brace for fierce windstorm**

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/california-wildfires/article/Kincade-Fire-keeps-growing-as-firefighters-fear-14564573.php>

### **Bold SF drug-injection site plan faces just one big hurdle: Trump**

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/heatherknight/article/Bold-SF-drug-injection-site-plan-faces-just-one-14563657.php>

### **For SF meth users, a sobering center is planned. What would that look like?**

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/For-SF-meth-users-a-sobering-center-is-planned-14563728.php>

### **City opens cooling centers in response to heatwave and poor air quality**

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/city-opens-cooling-centers-in-response-to-heatwave-and-poor-air-quality/>

### **Health department flip flops, now confirms 130 patients affected by Laguna Honda abuse scandal**

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/health-officials-walk-back-retraction-confirm-130-patients-impacted-by-abuse-scandal-at-laguna-honda-hospital/>

### **Residents warned of 'potential hot weather and poor air quality'**

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/residents-warned-of-potential-hot-weather-and-poor-air-quality/>

### **Poor Air Quality Expected In Bay Area Due To Heat, Kincade Fire**

<https://www.sfgate.com/news/bayarea/article/Poor-Air-Quality-Expected-In-Bay-Area-Due-To-14561931.php>

### **What to do to keep wildfire smoke out of your house**

<https://www.sfgate.com/california-wildfires/article/what-to-do-to-keep-wildfire-smoke-out-of-house-14559596.php>

### **“Behavioral Health Vital Signs”— A Safety Net System’s Trauma-Informed Approach to Aligning Behavioral Health Initiatives in Primary Care - NEJM Catalyst**

<https://catalyst.nejm.org/behavioral-health-vital-signs/>

### **Activist Brandon Lee returns home after brutal attack in Philippines**

<https://sfbay.ca/2019/10/29/activist-brandon-lee-returns-home-after-brutal-attack-in-philippines/>



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### **San Fran Police: People will Die Because of Traffic Ticket Paperwork**

<http://www.capoliticalreview.com/capoliticalnewsandviews/san-fran-police-people-will-die-because-of-traffic-ticket-paperwork/>

### **News Briefs: Crawford, Miss Major receive Acey Awards**

<https://www.ebar.com/news/news/283419>

### **Meth sobering center top priority of task force, mayor says**

<https://www.ebar.com/news/news/283475/meth-sobering-center-top-priority-of-task-force-mayor-says>

### **New Meth 'Sobering Centers' Top San Francisco's Plans to Address Drug Crisis**

<https://www.kqed.org/news/11781929/new-meth-sobering-centers-top-san-franciscos-plans-to-address-drug-crisis>

### **SFPD issuing fewer life-saving traffic tickets because of 'additional paperwork'**

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/sfpd-issuing-fewer-life-saving-traffic-tickets-because-of-additional-paperwork/>

### **Vision Zero Update**

<https://www.sfmta.com/blog/vision-zero-update>

### **Lessons from San Francisco's pre-Obamacare system to provide universal health coverage**

<https://www.centerforhealthjournalism.org/2019/10/22/lessons-san-francisco-s-pre-obamacare-system-provide-universal-health-coverage>

### **'Sobering center' recommended for San Francisco meth 'epidemic'**

<https://sfbay.ca/2019/10/22/sobering-center-recommended-for-san-francisco-meth-epidemic/>

### **SF's meth epidemic: City releases plan for tackling skyrocketing problem**

#### **Yet another SF home for mentally ill set to close amid treatment bed crisis**

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/Yet-another-SF-home-for-mentally-ill-set-to-close-14551470.php>

### **San Francisco Department of Public Health urging everyone to get vaccinated**

<https://www.kron4.com/news/bay-area/san-francisco-department-of-public-health-urging-everyone-to-get-vaccinated/>

### **Health department human resources director stepping down**

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/health-department-human-resources-director-stepping-down/>

### **Two visions for fixing SF's devastating mental illness crisis: Here's how they differ**

#### **SF Mayor Breed Announces Backing for Mental Health Plan to be on 2020 Ballot**

<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/SF-Mayor-Breed-Announces-Backing-for-Mental-Health-Plan-to-be-on-2020-Ballot-563268832.html>

### **Breed Announces Backing For Mental Health Care Plan To Be Placed On March 2020 Ballot**

<https://www.sfgate.com/news/bayarea/article/Breed-Announces-Backing-For-Mental-Health-Care-14540507.php>

<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2019/10/16/sf-mayor-breed-backs-homeless-mental-health-care-plan-on-2020-ballot/>



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### **Gov. Newsom kicks off Project Homeless Connect event in SF**

<https://abc7news.com/society/gov-newsom-kicks-off-project-homeless-connect-event-in-sf/5623075/>

### **San Francisco eyes new office to manage emerging tech**

<https://www.smartcitiesdive.com/news/san-francisco-eyes-new-office-to-manage-emerging-tech/565097/>

### **SF's dueling plans for mental health fix: 'Can't these people talk to each other?'**

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/SF-s-dueling-plans-for-mental-health-fix-14537123.php>

### **California will allow pharmacists to give HIV prevention medication without prescription**

<https://news.yahoo.com/california-allow-pharmacists-hiv-prevention-194845082.html>

### **32 Mental Health Facility Residents Saved From Eviction Thanks To Agreement Reached Friday**

<https://www.sfgate.com/news/bayarea/article/32-Mental-Health-Facility-Residents-Saved-From-14534599.php>