



San Francisco Department of Public Health

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Director of Health

City and County of San Francisco
London N. Breed
Mayor

Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of February 16, 2021

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>

San Francisco announces plan to expand vaccine eligibility to workers in education and childcare, emergency services and food sectors

Today, there are over 33,100 San Francisco residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19. And, sadly, a total of 372 San Franciscans have died. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) sends our condolences to their loved ones.

On February 9, Mayor London N. Breed and Director of Health Dr. Grant Colfax, in partnership with local healthcare providers, announced that starting February 24, COVID-19 vaccines would be offered to individuals identified as eligible in Phase 1B, Tier 1 of California's population prioritization plan for vaccine administration. This includes people who work in the education and childcare, emergency services, and food and agriculture sectors.

This expansion into Phase 1B, Tier 1 occurred as San Francisco, in partnership with healthcare providers, continues to expand its vaccine infrastructure but vaccine supply remains limited. Phase 1B, Tier 1 is comprised of more than 115,000 individuals who live or work in San Francisco, in addition to the approximately 210,000 healthcare workers and people 65 and older who are currently eligible.

Healthcare providers in San Francisco and DPH are currently vaccinating healthcare workers and people 65 and older. San Francisco will continue to prioritize those 65 years and over for vaccination, as they carry the highest risk of hospitalization and death of any population in the city.

The City has developed a webpage for people who live and work in San Francisco to find vaccination sites in San Francisco and book appointments. People who are eligible to be vaccinated can sign-up for an appointment at: [SF.gov/getvaccinated](https://sf.gov/getvaccinated).

City's vaccination strategy

The goal of the City's vaccination strategy is to make receiving the COVID-19 vaccine as convenient and comfortable for as many people as possible, particularly in those neighborhoods disproportionately affected by the pandemic. In partnership with the healthcare providers in San Francisco, which are receiving the majority of the vaccine doses from the state, the City is facilitating the quick and efficient delivery of vaccines through high-volume vaccine sites,



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neighborhood vaccine access sites, community clinics, pharmacy partnerships, and mobile vaccination teams.

The distribution of a national vaccine during a pandemic is an unprecedented event, and the City of San Francisco is partnering with healthcare providers to have as many people vaccinated as fast as possible, while following the federal and state guidelines for prioritization.

Anyone who works or lives in San Francisco can sign up for a notification when they are eligible for vaccination at [SF.gov/vaccinenotify](https://sf.gov/vaccinenotify). The City will continue to provide regular updates to the public about the vaccine in San Francisco at: [SF.gov/covidvaccine](https://sf.gov/covidvaccine).

Recap of current vaccine supply (as of February 14th):

San Francisco pauses high volume vaccination site operations due to lack of supply -

The vaccine supply coming to San Francisco's healthcare providers and DPH is limited, inconsistent, and unpredictable, making vaccine roll out difficult and denying San Franciscans this potentially life-saving intervention.

With the opening of the City College and Moscone high volume vaccination sites, vaccines administered by healthcare providers, pharmacies, and DPH in San Francisco increased significantly to average 7,400 doses over the last seven days. At the beginning of last week, San Francisco vaccinated 31% of the 65 and older population, and ended the week at 47%, nearly at the halfway mark. The City has the capacity to administer more than 10,000 vaccines per day but lack the vaccine supply.

As of February 14, the Moscone high volume site will pause for one week and will reopen once supply is sufficient to resume operations. Moscone is being operated in partnership with Kaiser Permanente and fellow consortium members, Adventist Health, the CA Medical Association, Dignity Health, Futuro Health and the California Primary Care Association.

The City College high volume site expects to resume on Friday for second doses only. The third high volume site will launch this week but with available appointments far below full capacity. No existing appointments were canceled; spots are only released for booking once the vaccine supply is confirmed.

San Francisco healthcare providers, pharmacies, and DPH has to vaccinate more than 760,000 residents over the age of 16, requiring more than 1.5 million doses. As of February 13, San Francisco received 262,000 doses and administered more than 190,000 doses to San Franciscans and surrounding Bay Area residents. This is a vaccine usage rate of 72.4%. The remaining vaccine doses are set aside for scheduled first appointments and scheduled second doses.

[Recap of expanding access to City's COVID-19 vaccination network](#)



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High-Volume Vaccination Sites – The Moscone Center high-volume vaccination site officially opened on February 5 by appointment only for anyone eligible to receive the vaccine, regardless of health coverage. Initially, the site will operate at a moderate capacity, but when supply increases, it can expand to 7,000 to 10,000 vaccinations per day. Hours of vaccination are limited but will ramp up to 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily, when vaccine is more readily available. The site is part of a collaborative effort between the City and County of San Francisco and DPH, partnering with a consortium of statewide healthcare organizations: Kaiser Permanente, Adventist Health, the California Medical Association, CommonSpirit/Dignity, and Futuro Health, as well as the California Primary Care Association.

In addition to the high-volume sites at the Moscone Center and City College of San Francisco, which opened on January 22, the City will add a third high-volume vaccination site at The SF Market in the Bayview. These high-volume sites were chosen in part for their proximity to neighborhoods in the southeastern part of the City that have been most heavily impacted by COVID. These sites will serve anyone, regardless of their health coverage status or provider.

Neighborhood Vaccine Access Sites – On February 1, the first neighborhood vaccine access site opened in the Mission District at 24th and Capp Streets. The City is working to expand neighborhood vaccine access sites to the Bayview, Excelsior, Visitacion Valley and other neighborhoods with the highest infection rates for COVID-19 and limited access to health care services.

The 24th Street site is by appointment only and is serving community health workers and local residents over the age of 65 within the Unidos en Salud network, which includes uninsured vulnerable populations. The site has an initial capacity of 120 vaccinations per day and, when vaccine capacity increases, this site may expand to conduct 200-400 vaccinations per day.

Community Clinics – In addition to these neighborhood vaccine sites, DPH and its community partners continue to vaccinate people through community clinics in the Western Addition, Chinatown, Bayview, Outer Sunset, and Potrero Hill.

DPH recently expanded vaccination access through the Southeast Health Center, which is offering walk-in appointments for residents 65 and older in the neighboring zip codes 94124 and 94134. Patients must show proof of age and residency in order to be vaccinated. No insurance required.

Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital (ZSFG) is offering free COVID-19 vaccines for people meeting all of the following requirements: live in zip codes 94110, 94112, or 94107; ages 65 and over; and either Medi-Cal recipients, Healthy San Francisco recipients, or uninsured. Patients must show proof of age and residence, such as a utility bill or driver's license. For those with Medi-Cal or Healthy San Francisco, patients should bring an insurance card.

The San Francisco Health Network (SFHN) has been moving quickly to vaccinate patients and members of the community. Across all SFHN hubs and sites, 14,500 people (who are ages 65 and



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over or In-Home Health Support workers) have been vaccinated as of February 8. The SFHN COVID Vaccination Taskforce brings together leaders and teams across Ambulatory Care community clinics and programs, ZSFG, and Laguna Honda Hospital, with the mission to offer vaccination to every patient quickly and equitably, following city and state guidelines.

Partnerships with Pharmacies – On February 3, Safeway Pharmacy began vaccinating individuals 65 and older who live and work in San Francisco at San Francisco State University. DPH will partner with Safeway Pharmacy, CVS, and Walgreens to eventually expand vaccination services throughout the city.

Dr. Farahnaz Farahmand appointed DPH Director of Children, Youth and Families

After a comprehensive search, DPH pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Farahnaz Farahmand as the new Director of the Children, Youth, and Families System of Care (CYF SOC) for Behavioral Health Services (BHS). Dr. Farahmand has more than 15 years of experience working with children, adolescents, and families served by public behavioral health systems through direct clinical services, supervision, published research, and program development and improvement.

Dr. Farahmand has a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from DePaul University in Chicago and completed her doctoral internship and post-doctoral fellowship with UCSF/ZSFG Child and Adolescent Services. In December 2014, she joined SFDPH BHS as CYF's Director of Practice Improvement. In her role as the Director of Practice Improvement, Dr. Farahmand developed and implemented numerous practice improvement initiatives and collective impact programming with system partners. In January 2017, Dr. Farahmand became the Assistant Director of CYF where she continued to advance practice improvement and collective impact efforts, including the oversight of our new Psychological Assessment Services program and visioning for Family-Centered Care within CYF and in partnership with our system partners. In August 2019, Dr. Farahmand stepped into the role of Interim Director of CYF. In addition to maintaining her role as Assistant Director, she joined the BHS Executive Leadership Team and BHS COVID Response Team, oversaw more functions and staff within CYF, and has worked with CBHDA and DHCS on legislative mandates.

Dr. Farahmand has led and supported CYF through unprecedented times, always with the goal of maintaining stability for her workforce and continued access to tools and supports.

We are truly honored Dr. Farahmand will continue to lead CYF. She has been an invaluable partner and leader during this especially challenging time.

Chinatown Public Health Center celebrates Year of the Ox

In celebration of the Year of the Ox, DPH's Chinatown Public Health Center Nutrition Services Teen HEAL (Healthy Eating and Active Living) program will host a series of virtual symposiums to promote healthy activities to practice for Lunar New Year.



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On January 30, the clinic invited Chef Martin Yan, who demonstrated healthy cooking techniques for tofu dumplings and other vegetarian dishes while sharing his personal stories and journey with the audience. Additionally, Dr. Joana DeRosa, chiropractor, presented the traditional Chinese medicine meridians and patting exercises that audience members can practice on their own to promote circulation and energy flow. Lastly, Catherine Wong, nutrition manager, highlighted the newly released 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Agriculture, which was designed to help Americans eat a healthier diet.

Teen HEAL will be hosting a second symposium on February 20, where Dr. Shelley Fung and Dr. DeRosa will be sharing more heart health activities to practice in time for the Lunar New Year. All teens, parents and families are invited to celebrate a health new year. If you are interested, please contact Catherine.Wong@sfdph.org.

San Francisco Health Network selected to receive grant and advance telehealth for people experiencing homelessness

On February 9, SFHN Primary Care, in collaboration with Behavioral Health Services, was accepted into the Center for Care Innovation's (CCI) Virtual Care Collaborative Clinical Connections Program. The program is a multi-state, 15-month learning collaborative to brainstorm how to deliver care over phone or video to people experiencing homelessness. With the acceptance, CCI recommended SFHN Primary Care for a \$17,000 grant to the Public Health Foundation to be used to advance telehealth for people experiencing homelessness (PEH). PEH face barriers to engaging in health care, including having to leave belongings on the street while they physically go to a health care facility. Telehealth has the potential to increase access to health care, either through roving teams or telehealth access points. By expanding telehealth, PEH will be able to engage in care more easily and reduce serious physical and behavioral health problems by catching and treating problems early.

Peers honored at 10th annual Mental Health Services Act awards ceremony

On December 18, DPH's Behavioral Health Services Mental Health Services Act (BHS MHSAs) program joined the Mental Health Association of San Francisco in a virtual ceremony to congratulate peers and providers funded by the BHS MHSAs program. The 10th annual Mental Health Services Act Awards Ceremony honored clients with a total of 267 awards for Achievement in Recovery, recognizing the strides individuals have made in their recovery over the past year.

During the event, attendees were able to spend a few hours together to acknowledge the hard work done by participants of MHSAs funded programs in San Francisco. Rebecca Massie was awarded the Peer Impact Award. Yolanda Morrissette was honored as Peer of the Year. The two teams of the year included the RAMS team, who is working in the COVID Shelter in Place hotels and Peer Support Services at the Mental Health Association of San Francisco.

DPH partners with food operators to ensure a safe Super Bowl weekend



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DPH's Environmental Health Branch (EHB) has been actively enforcing the Health Orders and Directives since the declaration of the COVID-19 emergency here in San Francisco. Since March 2020, EHB has responded to over 2,500 complaints.

In preparation for Super Bowl weekend, as part of EHB's effort to proactively educate food facility operators about health safety and prevention tips, EHB sent out an information flyer to all the city's permitted bars and restaurants. The flyer encouraged dining establishments to plan ahead and take all necessary measures to protect their guests and staff and highlighted safety guidelines they could follow to do so. Health inspectors also reached out to many facilities with a history of violations with additional education and guidance. As the result of these efforts, EHB saw a reduction in the number of complaints and violations noted over the weekend.

DPH in the News

KPIX, Feb 15 2021, Bay Area COVID-19 roundup: San Francisco mass vaccination sites on pause; Newsom recall effort gaining momentum; battle over in-person schooling

<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2021/02/15/bay-area-covid-19-roundup-san-francisco-mass-vaccination-sites-on-pause-newsom-recall-effort-gaining-momentum-battle-over-in-person-schooling/>

LA Times, Feb 15 2021, Dodger Stadium COVID-19 vaccination site to reopen for second doses

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-02-15/dodger-stadium-covid-19-vaccination-site-to-reopen-for-second-doses>

Mercury News, Feb 14 2021, Coronavirus: San Francisco to temporarily pause mass vaccination

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/02/14/coronavirus-san-francisco-to-temporarily-pause-mass-vaccination/>

SFist, Feb 14 2021, SFDPH's updated safe sex guidelines during the pandemic sure are something

<https://sfist.com/2021/02/14/sfdphs-updated-safe-sex-guidelines-during-the-pandemic-sure-are-something/>

AP, Feb 13 2021, Californians urged to celebrate Valentine's Day virtually

<https://www.newsobserver.com/news/article249241905.html>

KRON, Feb 13 2021, 'Quicker can be better': San Francisco gets cheeky in updated pandemic safe sex guidelines

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KPIX, Feb 12 2021, Bay Area COVID-19 roundup: long-haulers find relief among fellow sufferers; double-masking offers more protection; SF seeks school reopening court order

<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2021/02/12/bay-area-covid-19-roundup-long-haulers-find-relief-among-fellow-sufferers-santa-clara-county-ban-on-indoor-religious-services-to-stay-in-effect/>



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<https://www.ktvu.com/news/covid-vaccine-shortages-irregular-distribution-delays-some-covid-inoculations>

BAR, Feb 10 2021, Limited supply slows COVID vaccine rollout
<https://www.ebar.com/news/news/301919>

California Health Report, Feb 10 2021, As need for mental health care surges, a funding program remains underused
<https://patch.com/california/san-francisco/need-mental-health-care-surges-funding-program-remains-underused>

NBC Bay Area, Feb 10 2021, SF Black, Latinx community vaccinated at lower rates, clinics call for representation
<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/investigations/sf-black-latinx-community-vaccinated-at-lower-rates-clinics-call-for-representation/2463836/>

SFBay, Feb 10 2021, SF to expand vaccine eligibility, officials double down in school district lawsuit
<https://sfbayca.com/2021/02/10/sf-to-expand-vaccine-eligibility-officials-double-down-in-school-district-lawsuit/>

KRON4, Feb 9 2021, Who's next for the COVID-19 vaccine in San Francisco
<https://www.kron4.com/news/bay-area/live-soon-san-francisco-covid-19-response-update-for-feb-9/>

NBC Bay Area, Feb 9 2021, SF to begin vaccinating teachers, others in Phase 1B starting later this month
<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/san-francisco/sf-to-begin-vaccinating-teachers-others-in-phase-1b-starting-later-this-month/2463788/>

SF Chronicle, Feb 10 2021, S.F. teachers, emergency responders and food workers eligible for vaccine starting Feb. 24
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/San-Francisco-says-teachers-emergency-responders-15937165.php>

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<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news-columnists/citys-contract-nurses-win-fight-for-emergency-sick-leave-benefits/>

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<https://48hills.org/2021/02/sf-moved-people-onto-treasure-island-despite-serious-toxic-dangers/>

KRON4, Feb 8 2021, List: These San Francisco schools are reopening first
<https://www.kron4.com/news/bay-area/list-first-sf-schools-to-reopen/>

SF Chronicle, Feb 6 2021, Keeping romance alive: how to enjoy Valentine's Day during the pandemic
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Here-s-how-to-enjoy-Valentine-s-Day-in-the-15929002.php>



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<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2021/02/04/san-francisco-officials-unveil-mass-vaccination-site-at-moscone-center/>

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<https://www.kron4.com/news/bay-area/moscone-center-to-open-as-mass-covid-vaccination-site/>

KTVU, Feb 5 2021, Mass vaccination site opens Friday at San Francisco's Moscone Center
<https://www.ktvu.com/news/mass-vaccination-site-opens-friday-at-san-franciscos-moscone-center>

NBC Bay Area, Feb 4 2021, SF's Moscone Center to open as mass vaccination hub
<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/race-for-a-vaccine/sfs-moscone-center-to-open-as-mass-vaccination-hub/2458979/>

Bay Area Reporter, Feb 3 2021, SF may see rise in STDs post-COVID
<https://www.ebar.com/news/news//301677>

Golden Gate Xpress, Feb 3 2021, SF State mandates COVID-19 testing for campus residents, yields three positives
<https://goldengatexpress.org/96226/campus/sf-state-mandates-covid-19-testing-for-campus-residents-yields-three-positives/>

KQED, Feb 3 2021, San Francisco opens first navigation center for homeless young adults
<https://www.kqed.org/news/11858254/san-francisco-opens-first-navigation-center-for-homeless-young-adults>

LA Times, Feb 3 2021, San Francisco, amid school renaming flap, sues its school district to reopen during pandemic
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SFist, Feb 3 2021, SF opens first drop-in vaccination site in Bayview, no appointment needed
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