



City and County of San Francisco
Edwin M. Lee, Mayor

San Francisco Department of Public Health

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Director of Health

Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of

November 4, 2014

A current overview of issues affecting the state of public health in San Francisco

<http://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/insideDept/dirRpts/default.asp>

Ebola Update

While the risk of an Ebola outbreak in the U.S. remains very low, the City and County of San Francisco is taking preparedness for Ebola very seriously. The Department of Public Health (DPH) has prioritized Ebola planning and preparation by monitoring the situation closely and taking direct action to ensure the highest level of readiness.

Five airports (Newark, NJ; JFK, NYC; Hatfield-Jackson, Atlanta; Washington-Dulles, DC; & O'Hare-Chicago) were identified as the receiving areas to process travelers from the three West African countries impacted by Ebola (Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea). The CDC will screen these individuals and track the destination of asymptomatic individuals. The State Health Department will be notified and inform county health officers when travelers are due to arrive locally.

DPH's expert physicians and staff in the Population Health Division and the San Francisco Health Network are working closely with San Francisco General Hospital, all other local hospitals, labs, and clinical providers, San Francisco International Airport (SFO), the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), and the city's first responders (e.g., fire, police, 9-1-1 dispatchers, and ambulance transport) to ensure that a highly coordinated response is in place and ready to put into operation, should a case of Ebola occur in San Francisco.

The health sector is pulling together to address the situation. One example is a recent drill at San Francisco General Hospital that included EMS, the Fire Department and Portero Hill Health Center in a simulation scenario of receiving a patient with suspected Ebola. This activity allowed all steps in the process to be tested, from patient screening and transport to the use of Personal Protective Equipment and proper isolation and treatment.

Developing issues include the monitoring of incoming travelers, risk assessment, isolation and quarantine. The Department is keeping abreast of guidelines coming from the CDC and the state Health Department. The main theme of this work is to conduct individual assessments and develop case-specific monitoring plans that include potential isolation and treatment. We are keeping the health care community abreast of these developments.

Internal communications to DPH staff also are a high priority. We have issued a series of fact sheets and email messages and SFGH has held three staff town halls, which will be complemented by town halls for staff at 101 Grove, in the ambulatory care division and at Laguna Honda early this month.

This has been, and continues to be, a major team effort. We activated the Department Operations Center and have been meeting several times a week to coordinate, share information, make decisions and take action. I would like to recognize the leadership of several people who have been key to our preparation and response: Tomas Aragon, Naveena Bobba, Cora Hoover, Colleen Chawla, Vickie Wells, Susan Philip, Christine Siador, Susan Scheer, Albert Yu, Tracey Packer, Cindy Lambdin, Richard Lee, Roland Pickens, Sue Currin and many others in the DOC and throughout the Department.

Covered California Open Enrollment Starts November 15th

Covered California open enrollment for plans effective in 2015 will be held from November 15, 2014 to February, 15 2015. During this time consumers may renew or change their existing Covered California plans, or purchase plans for the first time. New for the 2015 plan year, Covered California will offer integrated pediatric dental services through all health plans and separate stand-alone dental plans for adults. Persons earning between 139-400% of the federal poverty level (FPL, \$16,105-\$46,860 per year for individuals, \$26,321 - \$79,160 per year for a family of three) are eligible for federal subsidies to reduce their plan costs. San Franciscans have the choice of plans from Anthem, Blue Cross, Chinese Community Health Plan, Health Net, and Kaiser. As a reminder, Medi-Cal enrollment continues year-round for individuals and families earning below 138% of FPL.

Filipino American History Month Celebration

Mayor Lee and a Host Committee celebrated Filipino American History Month on Tuesday, October 28, 2014, in San Francisco's City Hall.

Community Transformation Initiative Transforms over 250+ places for health in 3 years

From 2011-2013, the Community Transformation Initiative and its twelve community partners and agencies have transformed over 250+ places in San Francisco—schools, streets, child care sites, multi-unit housing, primary care clinics, businesses, parks, corner stores and more—to prevent chronic disease and address health inequities. San Francisco was one out of sixteen sites national selected as a Community Transformation Implementation Award recipient by the Centers of Disease Control & Prevention.

The Initiative strengthened the work of existing community organization who are leaders in implementing evidence-based strategies in four priority areas: healthy eating, active living, quality clinical preventative services and tobacco free living. These priority areas are aligned with national and local public health directives and priorities. Funded community partners addressed chronic disease prevention through creating policy-system-environmental level change and partnering with community advocates and community health workers. Though the Community Transformation Grant ended, the legacy and impact of our community partners' inspiring will continue, as will the commitment of the Department of Public Health and the leadership of San Francisco Health Improvement Partnership to improving health for San Franciscans.

We want to congratulate and acknowledge all the organizations that were “All in for Health” and part of the Community Transformation Initiative: Bay Area Community Resources-Sunset Project, Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco, Breastfeeding Coalition, Children’s Council of San Francisco, City College of San Francisco, Healthy Retail SF, Healthy Mothers Workplace Coalition, Legal Aid Society Employment Law Center, Portola Family Connections, Recreation and Parks Department, Rise-and-Shine Studios, San Francisco Health Improvement Partnerships, San Francisco Unified School District, San Francisco Public Health Foundation, Walk San Francisco, Youth Leadership Institute, and YMCA.

Second Annual LGBTQ Connect

On October 17, Project Homeless Connect (PHC), the Mayor's Office of HOPE, AIDS Housing Alliance, and the LGBT Center combined forces to target services specific to the needs of the LGBTQ community. By using a known safe space like the LGBT Center and recruiting excellent existing resources, we were able to reach many individuals who had never been to a PHC event before. Last year's LGBTQ Connect proved to be an entry point to a very vulnerable community. This year, the event felt like a family reunion. The providers at the event were chosen based on responsiveness to the specific health and safety needs of the LGBTQ homeless population. Thank you to all the community volunteers and PHC staff for your spirit of caring for all people who are vulnerable and alone.

The Whistleblower Program, operated by the Controller's Office, receives complaints regarding the misuse of City funds, improper activities by City officers and employees, deficiencies in the quality and delivery of government services, and wasteful and inefficient City government practices. There are a number of ways to file a complaint. Go to www.sfcontroller.org and click on the Frequently Requested tab to access the Whistleblower complaint instructions in the drop down menu.