



San Francisco Department of Public Health

Greg Wagner
Acting Director of Health

City and County of San Francisco
London N. Breed
Mayor

Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of December 18, 2018

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>

Federal administration's proposed changes to public charge

On December 10th, public comments closed for the Federal Administration's proposed rule change to "public charge" policies that govern how use of public benefits affect individuals' immigration status. This proposal would change longstanding policy and could significantly impact immigrants' use of public assistance program like Medi-Cal, and their ability to settle into the United States. Following the close of the commenting period, the rule must undergo several other steps of review before it is finalized.

Mayor London Breed submitted formal comments to the Federal Administration opposing the rule, and requested it be withdrawn due to the harmful effects it would have on the health, safety, and welfare of San Francisco residents. San Francisco Department of Public Health has developed public awareness materials (i.e. posters and postcards) informing residents that they are welcome at all city health clinics and hospitals, regardless of immigration or insurance status. The materials also provide information to guide residents where to find more details on the proposal.

Mayor issues executive directive on San Francisco response to air quality

On December 7th, Mayor London Breed issued an Executive Directive to strengthen San Francisco's response to air quality emergencies. The Directive is aimed at learning from the City's response to the recent poor air quality following the Camp Fire in Butte County and preparing for similar situations when they occur in the future.

Mayor Breed has instructed Department of Public Health (DPH) and Department of Emergency Management (DEM) to lead the revision of the City's air quality emergency plan, which was revised following the 2017 North Bay Fire, to prepare San Francisco for future sustained poor air quality situations. The plan will identify specific strategies to reach vulnerable populations and recommend proactive actions that can be taken within existing community networks. It will also provide



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recommendations on how to protect public health and include advice on the distribution protocol and use of masks.

Furthermore, the Directive instructs DEM to chair a Task Force, which will also include DPH and the City Administrator's Office, to establish measures of effectiveness for public respite facilities for weather-related events. DEM will establish a roster of civilian, multi-agency personnel of various backgrounds that can be rapidly deployed to aid areas facing disasters to mitigate against eventual widespread impacts affecting San Francisco and also support recovery efforts. Finally, DEM and DPH will work with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and other Bay Area cities and counties to develop consistent, multilingual educational messaging that is accessible for people with disabilities.

Controller announced \$415 million windfall available to San Francisco

On November 29th, City Controller Ben Rosenfield announced that San Francisco will recognize a roughly \$415 million windfall in newly available property tax revenue. Approximately \$181 million will be available to be spent from the General Fund after various mandated baselines and Rainy Day Reserves requirements have been met. Mayor London Breed seeks to work with the Board of Supervisors to fund critical affordable housing and homelessness programs while additional homelessness spending is potentially held up in the courts.

Under state law, property taxes are distributed by the Controller to the City, school district, and other taxing entities within its borders, with a unique formula for each county. The funding total is approximately \$415 million for Fiscal Years 2017-18 and 2018-2019. Approximately \$78 million of this funding must be allocated to various baselines and approximately \$156 million must go to Rainy Day Reserves, leaving approximately \$181 million available for other purposes.

Mayor's Budget Instructions

On Wednesday December 12th, the Mayor's Office provided a high level five-year outlook and issued budget instructions to departments. The projected general fund deficit is \$107.4 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020 and increases to \$163.4 million for FY 2020-2021. Should no correction be made to address the deficits, the Mayor's Office projects these deficits to grow to \$643.9 million by FY 2023-2024. Near term issues include growing employee costs, In Home Supportive Service (IHSS) cost shift from state to counties, and mandatory baseline and set asides



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which reduce general fund available for balancing. In addition, there is uncertainty related to pending labor negotiations this spring, SF Housing Authority obligations, recession risks, and potential state and federal changes. The Mayor and Controller will be issuing their detailed Five Year Financial Plan during the week of December 17th.

Mayor London Breed's priorities budget priorities for FY 2019 – 2021 are to:

- build more housing.
- reduce homelessness (housing and shelter).
- address behavioral health needs.
- clean up our streets and make them safer.
- create equitable opportunities for everyone.
- make government more accountable.

Departments are instructed to:

- reprioritize funding and positions within the departmental budget for "highest and best use".
- propose a 2% and 4% general fund reduction proposal with an additional 1% and 2% contingency.
- focus on accountability.
- focus on equitable outcomes.
- new positions that align with the Mayor's priorities may be considered.

DPH has begun the development of our budget submission with DPH leadership. The department will bring forth their proposal for the Commission on February 5th and 19th for consideration and approval.

Christmas Turkey Giveaway

On December 12th, Tracy Shaw-Senigar, a community liaison working with the Black African-American Health Initiative, led a collaboration that joined local community based organizations, including South East Health Center, Glide Church, Community Living Campaign, and Meals on Wheels, and the San Francisco Unified School District in giving away 600 turkeys to 600 families. The annual event took place at the Bayview Opera House.

One in four San Franciscans are food insecure. Black/African American's are particularly at risk. Food insecurity contributes to poor health and health disparities and increases risk of multiple chronic conditions, including diabetes, heart disease, and hypertension. The event was a huge success and is one of the health department's many efforts to bridge the hunger gap.



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DPH in the News (Nov 26 – Dec 13)

SF Chronicle, Dec 13 2018, SF health official played a role in shipyard home sales

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/green/article/Chronicle-Investigation-SF-health-official-13462076.php#photo-16636649>

SF Examiner, Dec 12 2018, Tests find ‘no evidence of health hazards’ at Hunters Point Shipyard police building

<http://www.sfoxaminer.com/tests-find-no-evidence-health-hazards-hunters-point-shipyard-police-building/>

Pharmacy News, Dec 11 2018, Sixth case of HIV patient in taking PrEP

<https://www.pharmacynews.com.au/news/sixth-case-hiv-patient-taking-prep-0>

SF Chronicle, Dec 5 2018, State says radioactive deck marker found at Hunters Point not really dangerous

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/matier-ross/article/Radioactive-deck-marker-found-at-Hunters-Point-13443355.php>.

Sing Tao, Dec 1 2018, Department of Public Health report: there is not risk of radioactive contamination at Hunter’s Point

<https://www.singtaousa.com/sf/446-%E7%81%A3%E5%8D%80/1744372-%E5%B7%9E%E8%A1%9B%E7%94%9F%E5%B1%80%E5%A0%B1%E5%91%8A%EF%BC%9A%E7%8D%B5%E4%BA%BA%E8%A7%92%E8%88%B9%E5%BB%A0%E7%84%A1%E8%BC%BB%E5%B0%84%E9%A2%A8%E9%9A%AA/>

Achy News, Dec 1 2018, Why are millennials at greatest risk of HIV transmission

<https://www.archynty.com/health/why-are-millennials-at-greatest-risk-of-hiv-transmission-newnownext/>

Rewire, Nov 29 2018, ‘One size is not going to fit all’: the need for more HIV prevention methods

<https://rewire.news/article/2018/11/29/one-size-more-hiv-prevention-methods/>

KPIX, Nov 26 2018, DEA agents see rise in meth use on SF streets

<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2018/11/26/dea-rise-meth-use-san-francisco/>