



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 August 4, 2020

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>

Mayor London Breed unveils City budget with investments in racial equity, homelessness services, mental health, and COVID-19 response

On July 31, Mayor London N. Breed today announced her budget proposal for Fiscal Years (FY) 2020-21 and 2021-22, which includes new investments to prioritize racial equity and reinvest in the African-American community, continue making progress on homelessness and behavioral health, and maintain the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The budget proposal makes these important investments while also balancing the two-year \$1.5 billion deficit with a responsible use of reserves, preserving jobs and with minimal impact to City services. The annual \$13.7 billion budget for FY 2020-21 and \$12.6 billion budget for FY 2021-22 is the culmination of months of collaborative work with elected officials, City departments, and community organizations, which was made challenging this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Breed's proposed budget does not include any layoffs of permanent City staff, maintains City services with minimal impacts, and closes the approximately \$1.5 billion General Fund deficit through a combination of revenue and expenditure solutions. However, the Mayor's budget as currently proposed is contingent in part upon revenue from the consensus Business Tax Reform measure, which will be on the November 2020 ballot. Additionally, the budget assumes that the City and its labor unions will reach an agreement to defer scheduled wage increases over the two-year budget period.

Homelessness and Mental Health

To continue to address the homelessness crisis and help people suffering from mental illness and substance use disorders, Mayor Breed's proposed budget includes funding to maintain investments in behavioral health beds, rental assistance and subsidy programs, and other critical mental health and homelessness programming. The proposed budget also makes new investments to pilot a new crisis response model and seeds funding for the Office of Coordinated Care in the Department of Public Health.

Mental Health

The Mayor's proposed budget supports the implementation of the first phase of Mental Health SF, a comprehensive overhaul of San Francisco's mental health system. Notably, the budget will fund the creation of an Office of Coordinated Care within the Department of Public Health, pilot a non-law



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enforcement Crisis Response Team for engaging people on the street experiencing mental health or substance use-related crises, and increase the City's capacity for mental health and substance use treatment beds.

These investments would be supported by approximately \$66.5 million over two years, should the Business Tax Reform measure pass in November. Mayor Breed's budget includes \$5 million from the General Fund to accelerate the implementation of the Office of Coordinated Care and the Crisis Response Team, so that work can begin regardless of the outcome of the November 2020 ballot measure.

COVID-19 Ongoing Response and Recovery

Mayor Breed's proposed budget includes funding to ensure the City is able to continue its comprehensive, data-driven, and public health-focused response to the ongoing health threats and economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. In total, the Mayor's proposed budget allocates \$446.1 million to ensure the City has the financial resources to meet the citywide priorities set forth by the COVID-19 Command Center, the centralized emergency operations center coordinating the response across City departments. The Mayor's budget assumes the City's General Fund will support \$93 million of that total amount, and that the remaining amount will be covered through a combination of FEMA reimbursement and funding from the CARES Act.

This funding will be directed to three main categories: health and human services; housing and shelter; and emergency communications and coordination. The Mayor's budget ensures there is adequate funding for COVID-19 testing, personal protective equipment, expanded capacity at hospitals and skilled nursing facilities, outbreak management, and contact tracing, among other expenses. Throughout COVID-19, addressing food insecurity has remained one of Mayor Breed's and the City's top priorities. The Mayor's proposed budget includes \$45.7 million in new expenditures for food programs. Lastly, the budget includes investments to address the needs of San Francisco's unsheltered residents in the COVID-19 environment with shelter, food, and medical care.

Community based organizations have been an integral part of the City's ongoing response to COVID-19. Mayor Breed's proposed budget includes funding to ensure that community partners can continue to work with the City to provide community-based and multi-lingual outreach and education during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Budget Timeline

In order to allow the City to be responsive to the COVID-19 emergency and to ensure sufficient time to understand the full economic impacts, the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors agreed to an updated schedule for the FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22 budget process which extended the process by two months. After originally releasing budget instructions for the upcoming two-year budget in December 2019, the Mayor reissued instructions to departments in May 2020 to reflect the revised



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budget shortfall. Departments were instructed to submit new budget proposals to aid the Mayor in developing a balanced budget in June and July. Following Mayor Breed's introduction of the proposed budget, it will now go to the Budget and Finance Committee and the full Board of Supervisors, after which it will go to the Mayor for her signature and final adoption by October 1, 2020.

San Francisco announces increase in testing capacity and additional neighborhood sites

Today, there are over 6,900 San Francisco residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19. And, sadly, a total of 61 San Franciscans have died. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) sends our condolences to their loved ones.

The key indicators of COVID-19 activity in San Francisco show that a surge of cases and hospitalizations is under way, and it must be brought under control before reopening can continue. As a result, the City is extending the pause on the reopening that began on June 29.

On July 22, Mayor London N. Breed today announced new strategies for COVID-19 testing prioritization and availability to address the surge in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in San Francisco. San Francisco's public COVID-19 testing program will focus on people who have symptoms consistent with the virus, close contacts of confirmed cases, and people prioritized by the Department of Public Health such as those impacted by an outbreak.

In addition, San Francisco's public COVID-19 testing program will continue to serve first responders, activated Disaster Service Workers, people who must leave their homes to work in San Francisco, people without health insurance, and communities disproportionately impacted by this global pandemic. People with private health insurance should continue to request tests from their health care providers.

To support this effort, the CityTestSF site at the Embarcadero will add 400 new appointments per day to ensure that first responders, including City Disaster Service Workers, have access to testing. Additionally, two new mobile testing sites that can each conduct up to 250 tests per day will be added to the City's current testing assets, and will be deployed in neighborhoods disproportionately affected by the pandemic. The placement of these new sites will be determined in consultation with community members. A new long-term test site also will be added in the southeastern part of the City, starting with approximately 500 more tests per day for individuals most in need of testing.

Consistent prioritization of testing in congregate settings such as skilled nursing facilities has greatly contributed to San Francisco's achievement of a fivefold lower death rate than those in comparable counties. San Francisco has consistently exceeded its target of conducting 1,800 tests daily, reaching an average of 3,212 daily tests this week.



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Next Steps for COVID-19 Testing Improvements in San Francisco:

- Issued a Health Order requiring private health care providers to expand testing services
- Reassess existing testing assets and revise testing priorities
- Expand community testing to locations that show recent increases in transmission
- Expand testing for priority populations in areas with less access to testing

San Francisco establishes continuing care site to increase hospital capacity in the COVID-19 surge

On July 30, San Francisco Director of Health Dr. Grant Colfax and District 2 Supervisor Catherine Stefani announced a significant step in bolstering the City's preparedness for the continuing surge in COVID-19 cases that has put more people in the hospital than at any time in the pandemic so far.

A facility in the Presidio will soon become San Francisco's first continuing care site for non-COVID-19 patients. Designed for those who need short-term medical observation or support, but not close monitoring or intensive nursing care in a traditional hospital setting, the "low-acuity" facility helps create space within San Francisco's hospital system for COVID-19 patients. If and when it is needed, the facility will be ready to serve up to 93 patients.

San Francisco currently has over 7,000 patients diagnosed with COVID-19. A surge in April put 94 San Franciscans in the hospital; the number dipped to 27 six weeks ago. Today there are about 100 City residents in the hospital. One quarter of them are in intensive care.

The continuing care site in the Presidio will allow patients to receive medical care after their treatment at one of the City's hospitals or in lieu of going to a hospital. In this way, a continuing care site acts as a hospital relief valve to ensure the City keeps hospital beds available for anyone who needs acute care during and after a COVID-19 surge. If a patient's condition worsens while at the continuing care site, they will be transported by ambulance to a hospital. The site is not expected to serve COVID-19 patients unless the course of the pandemic changes.

The new facility, located in a rehabilitated building in the northeastern corner of the Presidio, will also allow the City's hospitals to continue to address medical needs unrelated to COVID-19, such as elective surgeries. The site is part of a comprehensive strategy which also includes testing and contact tracing, with provision of food, housing and financial assistance to COVID-positive residents who need support to isolate.

Behavioral Health Services Electronic Health Record is here



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Since 2016, the Behavioral Health Service (BHS) Implementation Team has been working to create a full Electronic Health Record (EHR) for the system of care. This project included the development of a scheduler in 2016, the deployment of more than 1,000 signature pads in 2017, along with the introduction of the full electronic Treatment Plan of Care, Consent for Psychiatric Medications, and Consent for Mental Health Services. The eForms component of the project started in June 2017 with the revision of each form. The forms were then reviewed by a panel of experts from the DPH Business Office of Contracts and Compliance (BOCC), Compliance Department, Billing, and Clinical Services. After the review was complete, the forms were converted to an electronic format and tested across three sites, including South of Market Mental Health, Sunset Mental Health, and Mission Mental Health. The final step, completed in February 2020, involved translating the forms into Tagalog, Russian, Chinese, Vietnamese and Spanish, at which time the translated versions were converted into a digital format and are now ready to be used system wide. An eForms user guide was recently developed and will be distributed to all BHS staff shortly. With the implementation of eForms, the BHS system of care will have full electronic patient charts, which are easy to use and will produce status reports to help maintain record updates and chart reviews electronically.

Jenée Johnson Recognized for Mindfulness Work Initiated at SFDPH

On July 21, Jenee Johnson, Program Innovation Leader at the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) Mindfulness, Trauma and Racial Healing, was named one of twelve Powerful Woman of the Mindfulness Movement for the work she initiated in the SFDPH. Johnson continues to bring mindfulness into public health and trauma informed initiatives which supports our effort to be a healing organization with the skills to navigate complexity compassionately. With our COVID-19 cases now surging as we approach the five-month mark since we first sheltered in place in San Francisco, now more than ever, we need to take care of our physical and mental health. In Mindful's second annual focus on women leaders of mindfulness, Johnson shares how her deep practice has shaped the world she sees—and the one she's working toward:

<https://www.mindful.org/12-powerful-women-of-the-mindfulness-movement-2020/>.

DPH in the News

SF Gate, Jul 31 2020, SF projects dire COVID figures for worst case scenario, but how accurate are they?

<https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/SF-projects-dire-COVID-figures-for-worst-case-15446789.php>

Vox, Jul 20 2020, San Francisco's lonely war against Covid-19

<https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/2020/7/30/21331369/london-breed-coronavirus-covid-san-francisco-california-trump>



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KTVU, Jul 30 2020, San Francisco reports 1K jump in COVID-19 cases in 10 days

<https://www.ktvu.com/news/san-francisco-reports-1k-jump-in-covid-19-cases-in-10-days>

SF Chronicle, Jul 30 2020, Predicting 'major surge,' SF opens site to free hospital beds for COVID-19 patients

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Predicting-huge-surge-San-Francisco-opens-15446513.php>

ABC, Jul 30 2020, San Francisco COVID-19 hospitalizations are highest ever and getting worse, health director says

<https://abc7news.com/san-francisco-coronavirus-update-covid-19-hospitalizations-department-of-public-health-covid-testing/6342921/>

KRON, Jul 30 2020, San Francisco building temporary hospital to free up beds for COVID patients

<https://www.kron4.com/news/bay-area/san-francisco-building-temporary-hospital-to-free-up-beds-for-covid-patients/>

Mission Local, Jul 29 2020, Health Department, citing disproportionate ER use-of-force on Black patients, may cut ties with Sheriff's Deputies

<https://missionlocal.org/2020/07/health-department-citing-disproportionate-er-use-of-force-on-black-patients-may-cut-ties-with-sheriffs-deputies/>

SF Chronicle, Jul 29 2020, Cost of ignoring coronavirus rules is rising: How each Bay Area county enforces health orders

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Cost-of-ignoring-coronavirus-rules-is-rising-How-15441092.php>

BAR, Jul 28 2020, SF supervisors send gay bathhouse rule change to mayor

https://www.ebar.com/news/latest_news//295436

Bloomberg, Jul 27 2020, California AG investigating Amazon's warehouse practices amid coronavirus

<https://www.pe.com/2020/07/27/california-ag-investigating-amazons-warehouse-practices-amid-coronavirus/>

Mission Local, Jul 27 2020, San Francisco tests for COVID-19 more than most anywhere else, but



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does it have a strategy?

<https://missionlocal.org/2020/07/san-francisco-tests-for-covid-19-more-than-most-anywhere-else-but-does-it-have-a-strategy/>

SF Chronicle, Jul 27 2020, How SF's Laguna Honda averted coronavirus disaster

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/A-deadly-coronavirus-outbreak-seemed-inevitable-15433148.php>

ABC, Jul 25 2020, Mask Up! New face covering rules take effect in San Francisco, kids now included

<https://abc7news.com/health/mask-up-new-face-covering-rules-take-effect-in-sf-kids-now-included/6335039/>

NBC, Jul 25 2020, SF officials update face covering requirements

<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/san-francisco/sf-officials-update-face-covering-requirements/2332448/>

ABC, Jul 24 2020, SF's updated health order requires doctor's note for those who can't wear a face covering

<https://abc7news.com/san-francisco-health-order-coronavirus-california-face-masks/6333612/>

SF Chronicle, Jul 23 2020, Ferry Building, closed under coronavirus health orders, to reopen

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/food/article/Ferry-Building-closed-under-coronavirus-health-15430511.php>

ABC, Jul 22 2020, Bay Area COVID-19 testing not equally accessible across races, data analysis shows

<https://abc7news.com/covid-19-testing-black-latino-bay-area/6330018/>

SF Examiner, Jul 22 2020, SF expands testing capacity for COVID-19 as demand increases

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/sf-expands-testing-capacity-for-covid-19-as-demand-increases/>

KTVU, Jul 20 2020, Indoor malls are shut down again in San Francisco, more coronavirus testing expected

<https://www.ktvu.com/news/indoor-malls-are-shut-down-again-in-san-francisco-more-coronavirus-testing-expected>



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SF Chronicle, Jul 20 2020, Bay Area's contact tracers struggle amid coronavirus surge

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/health/article/Bay-Area-s-contact-tracers-struggle-amid-15419341.php>

SF Chronicle, Jul 19 2020, Open or closed? Bay Area struggles to find a middle ground that works

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/health/article/Open-or-closed-Bay-Area-struggles-to-find-a-15418212.php>