



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 December 1, 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>

San Francisco to roll back select activities in response to State assignment to most restrictive opening tier

Today, there are over 15,500 San Francisco residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19. And, sadly, a total of 160 San Franciscans have died. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) sends our condolences to their loved ones.

On November 28, Mayor London N. Breed and Director of Health Dr. Grant Colfax announced the City will adjust its reopening of businesses and activities. Due to the continued increase in COVID-19 cases in San Francisco, the State has placed the City in the most restrictive Purple tier for reopening. Beginning Sunday, November 29 at noon, San Francisco rolled back or reduced capacity of certain activities to conform with California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy tier assignments. Additionally, beginning Monday, November 30, San Francisco will comply with the Limited Stay at Home Order issued by the Governor on Thursday, November 19th for any counties in the Purple tier.

As a result of its assignment to the most restrictive Purple tier, San Francisco must close indoor worship, indoor movie theaters, indoor gyms and fitness centers, and indoor operations at museums, aquariums, and zoos. San Francisco will also close outdoor carousels, Ferris wheels, and train rides. Additionally, retail stores must limit capacity to 25%. Restaurants may continue to operate outdoors.

All schools – TK-12 – that are already open for in-person learning may continue to offer indoor instruction. Under the Purple tier, TK-6 schools that have not yet opened, may apply for a waiver from the Health Officer to open for indoor in-person instruction. Middle schools and high schools that have not yet opened may not open for indoor instruction, however they may apply to provide outdoor-only learning.

San Francisco, along with California and the United States is experiencing a surge in COVID-19 more aggressive than what the City has experienced to date. We are currently averaging 130 new COVID-19 positive cases per day compared to the 73 per day that we experienced the first week of November. Moreover, we currently have approximately 900 COVID-19 cases diagnosed per week in San Francisco compared to 217 diagnosed COVID-19 cases the week of October 12th.



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Both the City and the State are taking decisive action in order to contain the aggressive spread of the virus. In addition to the rollbacks that will take place, San Francisco will implement the State required Limited Stay at Home Order that requires non-essential businesses to close and prohibits members of different households from gathering indoors or outdoors between 10:00pm and 5:00am until December 21st. This Limited Stay at Home Order will begin Monday November 30 at 10 pm.

The following activities will be required to suspend outdoor operations until further notice:

- Outdoor Family Entertainment Centers. Outdoor stand-alone amusement attractions must close, including carousels, Ferris wheels, train rides, and bungee trampolines.
 - The following may remain open subject to existing required safety protocols: outdoor playgrounds, outdoor skate parks, outdoor roller and ice rinks (at 25% capacity up to a maximum of 25 total people), outdoor batting cages, and outdoor mini-golf.

The following activities will be required to suspend indoor operations until further notice:

- Indoor Gyms. Indoor gyms and fitness centers must close indoor operations. Limited one-on-one training may continue indoors, with specific ventilation measures in place. Outdoor activities at gyms and fitness centers, including fitness classes up to 25 people, may continue subject to existing required safety protocols.
- Indoor Museums. Indoor museums, zoos and aquariums must close indoor operations but can continue outdoor activities subject to existing required safety protocols.
- Indoor Movie Theaters. Indoor movie theaters must close though drive-in movies may continue with existing required safety protocols.
- Indoor Houses of Worship. Indoor religious services and cultural ceremonies at houses of worship must cease with the following caveats:
 - Indoor individual prayer is still allowed with updated safety protocols.
 - Live streaming and broadcasting of services indoors is still allowed with existing capacity limits and safety protocols.
 - Indoor funerals of up to a total of 12 people are permitted.
 - Outdoor religious services is still allowed up to the existing local limit of 200 people and subject to existing safety protocols.

The following activities will be required to reduce indoor capacity:

- Indoor Retail. All retail stores, including shopping centers and essential retail businesses *other than standalone grocery stores*, must reduce capacity to 25% (down from 50%)
 - Standalone grocery stores can operate at 50% capacity, but other essential retail such as pharmacies and hardware stores must decrease to 25% capacity.
 - Reduced capacity to 25% includes low-contact retail services, like dog groomers and shoe repair shops.
 - Reduced capacity to 25% also includes equipment rental businesses, like bike rentals.

The following activities will be required to proceed with modifications in place:

- TK-12 Schools. TK-12 schools that are already open can continue to operate in accordance with approved health and safety plans. TK-6 schools that have not yet opened may receive a waiver to open for indoor instructions. Middle schools and high schools may apply for a waiver to provide outdoors-only in-person learning, with health and safety conditions required by the Department of Public Health in place.



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- Institutes of Higher Education and Vocational Programs. Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) and vocational programs that are open for indoor in-person instruction may continue to operate until their term ends, at which point only indoor programs that train students to provide essential functions may continue. New IHEs and vocational programs cannot open or begin programming not already underway, except for programs that train students to provide essential functions as defined in the health order.

Outdoor dining, as well as indoor retail, indoor personal services (including hair and nail salons, massage and esthetician services, etc.), outdoor fitness and limited indoor one-on-one personal training at gyms or fitness centers may still continue at this time. Additionally, outdoor playgrounds, skate parks (with a 25% capacity limit up to 25 people at a time), batting cages and mini golf, as well as outdoor zoos and art or museum exhibits may remain open.

The Department of Public Health will continue to monitor the key indicators of COVID-19 prevalence in the city and take actions it believes are necessary to limit the spread of the virus and manage the City's case count. Over the last month, San Francisco's cases per 100,000 have steadily climbed.

The Department of Public Health released a Travel Advisory on November 12, urging San Franciscans to refrain from travelling outside of the county and recommending a 14-day quarantine for those who travel outside the state or that have engaged in higher risk activities as described in the travel advisory. As cases continue to climb throughout California and the rest of the country, this advisory is even more important to follow. The City strongly encourages San Franciscans to avoid gatherings, wear face coverings when leaving home, keep their distance from other people, and to get tested for COVID-19 if they feel sick.

More information about changes related to San Francisco's assignment to the Purple tier can be found at <https://sf.gov/LimitedStayHome>. San Francisco's reopening timeline can be found at <https://sf.gov/step-by-step/reopening-san-francisco>.

Bay Area Health Officers' statement in support of Santa Clara County's new COVID-19 measures

On November 28, Health Officers from San Francisco, Alameda County, Contra Costa County, Marin County, and the City of Berkeley are expressing their support for Santa Clara County's new health order restricting higher-risk activities to reduce the likelihood of hospitals becoming overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients.

Santa Clara County officials estimate that hospitals in their county will reach or exceed capacity in the coming weeks if they do not take decisive action to stem the spread of COVID. Given their situation, Santa Clara County officials announced they would enact new rules for businesses and residents, which go into effect on Monday, November 30. The new rules reduce the number of customers allowed in stores at a given time, limit hotels to only essential travel and require travelers coming into Santa Clara County from distances greater than 150 miles to quarantine for 14 days. They also temporarily prohibit youth, collegiate, and professional contact sports in Santa Clara County.

While Health Officers from San Francisco and neighboring Bay Area counties say they have not reached the same critical point as Santa Clara, they may also have to take similar actions soon in



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order to preserve remaining regional hospital capacity to treat both COVID and non-COVID medical conditions, such as severe illnesses caused by flu. A month ago, there were 262 people hospitalized with COVID in the Bay Area; as of yesterday, that number had nearly tripled to 759.

Health Officers urged people to continue taking basic safety precautions to protect themselves and others from COVID:

- Wear face coverings when around people you don't live with
- Stay home as much as possible. If you must go out, limit yourself to essential activities, such as grocery shopping or getting healthcare
- Avoid mixing with people from other households
- Maintain physical distancing from others
- Wash your hands regularly

San Francisco vaccine trial update

Phase 3 of a COVID-19 vaccine trial resumed in San Francisco in late October. Among the 40,000 volunteers worldwide who will be enrolled in the AstraZeneca trial, we anticipate enrolling 250 Bay Area participants at SFDPH Bridge HIV for their injections and health checks. An additional 150 participants will be enrolled at partner sites at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and the East Bay AIDS Center. These volunteers, adults from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, include people with and without underlying medical conditions. Principal Investigator Dr. Susan Buchbinder is leading the double-blind study at Bridge HIV.

Participants are receiving two doses of the vaccine or a placebo, 28 days apart. On Nov. 23, AstraZeneca shared an interim analysis of data from the United Kingdom and Brazil in which overall efficacy was 70%. One of the dosing regimens – a half-dose followed by a full dose a month later – was shown to be 90% effective. A second regimen, of a full-dose followed by a full-dose was 62% effective. The Phase 3 trial currently being conducted in the US and worldwide is using the full-dose vaccine for both injections. It is possible that the study design will be changed to also evaluate the half/full dose regimen.

This is just one of several COVID-19 vaccine trials under way around the world. Health Officer Dr. Tomás Aragón, appointed to California's Scientific Safety Review Workgroup by Governor Gavin Newsom, is working to ensure any vaccine approved by the FDA is safely and equitably distributed. Meanwhile, the COVID Command Center continues its work on plans for that safe and equitable distribution in San Francisco.

San Francisco provides mutual aid to Santa Cruz County



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In November, two volunteers from the San Francisco Department of Public Health's Environmental Health Branch responded to a request for mutual aid from Santa Cruz County. This past year, Santa Cruz County experienced devastating consequences due to the large-scale CZU wildfire, which destroyed approximately 1,200 structures. The two EHB volunteers, Ryan Casey, an Engineer and Han Phan a Sr. Environmental Health Inspector, served a two-week shift, worked with nearly 300 property owners who had lost homes to the fire and assisting them with the necessary applications and permits for clearing their properties of debris. This included characterizing fire debris for hazardous materials and properly managing for its disposal. The EHB is proud to have provided support to one of the city's neighboring counties during this time of need.

DPH in the News

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<https://missionlocal.org/2020/11/ucsf-and-latino-task-force-embark-on-the-largest-testing-campaign-to-date/>

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<https://sfist.com/2020/11/28/san-francisco-rolls-out-virtual-assistant-tool-to-help-improve-contact-tracing/>

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<https://datebook.sfchronicle.com/entertainment/santacon-2020-canceled-sf-organizers-say-stay-home>

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<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2020/11/27/new-covid-contact-tracing-system-uses-texts-calls-visits-to-reach-more-people-in-san-francisco/>

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<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2020/11/28/san-francisco-bay-area-covid-roundup-fans-sneak-a-peek-at-big-game-black-friday-crowds-officials-say-get-tested/>

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reducing opioid overdoses

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<https://abc7news.com/health/artists-color-sf-presidio-hospital-during-covid-19-crisis/8210339/>

KCBS, Nov 24 2020, Dr. Susan Philip talks about the current COVID surge

<https://app.radio.com/iKYW9J9kGbb>

KPIX, Nov 24 2020, COVID: Dr. Grant Colfax says SF 'at a critical moment,' expects purple tier later this week

<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2020/11/24/covid-dr-grant-colfax-sf-critical-moment-purple-tier-later-this-week/>

KRON4, Nov 24 2020, SF expected to enter purple tier this week

<https://www.kron4.com/news/bay-area/sf-expected-to-enter-purple-tier-this-week/>

NBC Bay Area, Nov 24 2020, 'It Is in Your Hands': Health Officials Plea for Help to Control COVID-19 Surge

<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/coronavirus/it-is-in-your-hands-health-officials-plea-for-publics-help-in-battling-covid-19-surge/2407306/>

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<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/sf-still-in-the-red-but-expects-move-into-purple-tier-some-time-soon/>

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<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/S-F-study-could-bring-U-S-closer-to-fast-15745741.php>

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<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2020/11/22/san-francisco-covid-major-outbreak-golden-gate-fields-fda-approves-trump-treatment-antibody-curfew/>

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<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/S-F-expected-to-join-coronavirus-purple-tier-15746980.php>



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<https://www.forbes.com/sites/nicholasreimann/2020/11/21/potential-to-overwhelm-major-cities-like-los-angeles-and-st-louis-now-running-out-of-hospital-space-because-of-covid/?sh=1fdb6a97d50>

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<https://sf.eater.com/2020/11/20/21585521/san-francisco-curfew>

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<https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/11/20/coronavirus-san-francisco-on-verge-of-purple-tier-on-pace-for-record-hospitalizations-health-officer-warns/>

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<https://www.ktvu.com/news/health-department-denies-warriors-proposal-to-open-chase-center-at-50-capacity>

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<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-11-18/third-california-covid-19-wave-could-be-worst>

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<https://www.facebook.com/msnbc/videos/301305997662740/>

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