



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 February 18, 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>

COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Update

San Francisco still has zero confirmed cases of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) among San Francisco residents at this time. If a newly diagnosed case is confirmed in San Francisco, the Department of Public Health (DPH) will announce it, in cooperation with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Residents of the Bay Area are currently at low risk of becoming infected with this novel coronavirus, unless they have recently traveled to Hubei Province, China or have come in close contact with someone who was ill who recently traveled in that area.

Our Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEPR) team activated the Departmental Operations Center (DOC) on January 21, 2020. The Department of Emergency Management (DEM) activated the citywide Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on January 27, 2020. Public Health and DEM work closely with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), California Department of Public Health (CDPH), San Francisco International Airport (SFO), regional public health jurisdictions, and local City and County of San Francisco Departments, to monitor the outbreak and prepare a response that protects the public. We are actively preparing for the possibility of confirmed cases here and focusing on prevention. We know there is a lot of concern in the community. We are continuing to work with all involved agencies and community partners to ensure that the public has access to updated and accurate information while prioritizing outreach to the Chinese community. Recent activities include:

- Inviting Chinese community leaders including family associations, merchants, medical providers, nonprofits and schools to a roundtable discussing about COVID-19 and City's preparedness efforts. The Mayor's Office, DPH and DEM conducted the meeting in English and Cantonese while the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs provided interpretation.
- Issuing a joint statement by the Mayor's Office, DPH and DEM on xenophobia in response to the discrimination against the Asian Pacific Islander community around the world. The risk for this virus depends on travel history, not on race, ethnicity or culture. We know that racial, ethnic and cultural discrimination cause bad health outcomes. This statement has also been translated in Chinese.
- Conducting a parent forum for parents at Gordon J. Lau Elementary School in partnership with the San Francisco Unified School District. Attendance included parents of students from Gordon J. Lau Elementary School, Jean Parker Elementary School, and Edwin and Anita Lee Newcomer School. DPH and DEM answered parents' questions and concerns to COVID-19 in English and Cantonese.



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- Partnering with Supervisor Aaron Peskin for a joint press conference, including DEM, Office of Economic Workforce and Development, Chinese Hospital, Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association at New Asia Restaurant. City officials and community leaders came together to promote tourism in Chinatown and the continuation of Lunar New Year festivities while reminding everyone to practice good hygiene and to get a flu shot. DPH provided in-depth interviews with KTSF, Singtao, Skylink TV and WorldJournal.
- Presenting at the Chinatown Disaster Preparedness Committee meeting. Representation from 20 community-based organizations attended in person and online webinar. SFDPH and SFDEM answered questions from community leaders in English and Cantonese.
- Continuing to update and distribute DPH COVID-19 Fact Sheets in [English](#), [Chinese](#), [Filipino](#) and [Spanish](#). These resources are disseminated at community outreach events, to the public, to media and to community organizations.

It is still cold and flu season. The best way that members of the public can protect themselves from getting sick is through frequent hand washing. Also, coughing or sneezing into your sleeve, and staying home if you're sick are important ways to prevent the spread of illness. We recommend getting a flu vaccine to help prevent illness and symptoms similar to COVID 19. There is no recommendation to wear masks or cancel events. We encourage everyone to stay informed and up-to-date through trusted sources such as www.sfdph.org and www.sf72.org.

Behavioral Health Updates

Three recent announcements exemplify the spectrum of work we are doing in behavioral health in San Francisco. One is an innovation, one is an expansion of a successful program, and one preserves important resources at risk.

Drug Sobering Center

The innovative drug sobering center proposed for 180 Jones St. in the Tenderloin is designed to create safety for people who use drugs – especially methamphetamine – and for the surrounding neighborhood, where public intoxication and overdose mortality are prevalent.

DPH is collaboratively designing a program with HealthRIGHT 360 that implements the top recommendation of the Methamphetamine Task Force in its final report: create a trauma-informed sobering center with harm reduction services for people under the influence of methamphetamine.

The pilot program at 180 Jones St. will prioritize clients experiencing homelessness and substance use disorder in the Tenderloin, working with outreach teams in the neighborhood and police officers from Tenderloin Station to refer clients to the sobering center. Welcoming, supportive care and hospitality services would include:

- Individualized monitoring for health and safety
- Providing respite, showers, hydration and light snacks, and some clothing if necessary
- Assessments for substance use, physical and mental health issues



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- Linkage to social services, including assessment of housing needs
- Referrals to continue treatment at various levels of care

DPH and HealthRIGHT 360 are designing a 15-bed facility with a quiet rest area as well as room to walk, in order to accommodate people's needs at various stages of intoxication. The intended staff:client ratio is 1:4, which includes nurses, health workers, and a van driver who can transport clients. As is our practice when siting new programs in San Francisco, DPH will engage with community members to address their concerns and provide regular progress reports on what we expect will be an 18-month program. An affordable housing development is set to begin construction at 180 Jones St. in the fall of 2021, by which time we hope to have replicated the drug sobering center model elsewhere in San Francisco.

Hummingbird Place Expansion

The second recent announcement, of a proposed expansion of DPH's Hummingbird Place partnership with PRC/Baker Places, would allow us to serve more people in need of psychiatric respite. Since 2017, Hummingbird Place next to Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital has bridged a gap in care between psychiatric emergency or hospital care and continuing to treatment. It allows clients to rest and consider their next steps, which might include housing and/or substance use treatment, and to be prioritized for those services when they are ready.

Tipping Point Community announced last fall that it would fund an expansion of this model of care in San Francisco. The new center would open this spring at 1156 Valencia St., a Salvation Army property, with PRC/Baker Places and DPH serving 30 overnight clients at a time and up to 25 daytime drop-in clients. Services are designed to include:

- Referral to primary medical and psychiatric community providers
- Coordination of services and discharge planning
- Connection to shelter and housing
- Transportation to medical and social services appointments
- Food, clothing, access to showers, and laundry facilities
- Individual and group counseling to engage in motivational interviewing
- One-on-one peer support
- Daily living skills training
- Referrals to vocational services for assessment of job skills, training, and employment opportunities

City acquires two Board and Care Facilities slated for closure

Finally, the third recent announcement involves the preservation of two residential care facilities that were at risk of closing. The City of San Francisco is financing the acquisition of Grove Street House, a nine-bed, 60-day crisis stabilization facility for adults with chronic, co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. The longtime operator and lessee of Grove Street House, PRC/Baker Places, will now be able to buy the building. The City also has declared its intent to purchase South Van Ness Manor, a long-term residential care facility with 29 licensed beds.



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Black History Month

We are commemorating Black History Month across the department. The Annual Public Health Black History Event will feature Dr. Joy DeGruy, whose research focuses on the intersection of racism, trauma, violence and American slavery. She will speak on “Self-Care for African Americans: Taking Care of Ourselves to Take Care of Our Communities.” Tickets are still available on [Eventbrite](#). Zuckerberg San Francisco General will hold their annual Black History Month event, which this year is called “Next Movement” on February 26 from 11:45am to 2pm in the hospital cafeteria. All are welcome to attend. California Preterm Birth Initiative will be celebrating Black healthcare practitioners at their “Healing, Resistance, and Solidarity” event on Tuesday, March 24th at 5pm, featuring keynote speaker, Dr. Karen Scott. More info here: <https://pretermbirthca.ucsf.edu/events/healing-resistance-and-solidarity-power-black-healthcare-practitioners-policy-development-and>. We are running a social media campaign on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) in honor of Black History Month, honoring a historic Black leader for each day of Black History Month.

Lunar New Year Parade

Happy Year of the Rat! In celebration of Lunar New Year, the City’s annual Chinese New Year Parade was held on February 8th. San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) participated in the City’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with Emergency Medical Services monitoring call volume and activating additional resources if needed. DPH also coordinated with other City agencies including the Department of Emergency Management, Police Department and Fire Department to ensure the safety of parade attendees. This year required extra education, planning, preparation and coordination due to concerns about COVID-19 (novel coronavirus).

Hearts in SF

Hearts in SF, an annual event, benefitting the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation, celebrates the work happening every day at the hospital. This year, special guests included Denise Tyson, former Mayor Willie Brown, Mayor London Breed, and a special video from Senator Kamala Harris, and was focused on the important work of ZSFG to address the mental health crisis. Among other significant donations, Kaiser Permanente pledged to invest \$3 million in the amazing Addiction Care Team at ZSFG.

Leaders with Heart Awards were presented during the program, which recognized extraordinary leaders who exemplify the compassion and commitment of ZSFG – caring for all San Franciscans. Leaders with Heart Awards went to: **Dr. Mark Leary**, who has dedicated his career to serving the most vulnerable with compassion and dignity. Joining the Department of Psychiatry in 1989, Dr. Leary has focused on community mental health needs in San Francisco, playing an integral role in the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, spearheading access to psychiatric care for incarcerated populations, and ensuring San Francisco’s only 24/7 Psychiatric Emergency Services is open and available to all. The other recipient was **the Social Medicine**



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team, a multidisciplinary team of physicians, social workers, pharmacists, nurses, patient navigators, community partners, and performance improvement specialists who look beyond the medical needs of frequent Emergency Department visitors and create a model of care that addresses medical, social, and psychological factors facing patients. Led by Jack Chase, MD, Hemal Kanzaria, MD, and Jenna Bilinski, RN, the Social Medicine team is redefining whole-person care - meeting patients where they are, and finding the support and resources to help them live healthier lives.

DPH in the News:

Ghost kitchens' unseen food ecosystem: the good, the bad, and the gross

<https://newsus.app/ghost-kitchens-unseen-food-ecosystem-the-good-the-bad-and-the-gross/>

UCLA Fielding School of Public Health faculty experts available for media covering novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

<https://www.newswise.com/articles/ucla-fielding-school-of-public-health-faculty-experts-available-for-media-covering-novel-coronavirus-covid-19>

Hit-and-run driver slams into three pedestrians in SF Mission -- two in critical condition

Businesses suffer from customers' coronavirus fears

<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202002/13/WS5e44dc6da3101282172774e0.html>

San Francisco May Lift '80s-Era Ban on Gay Bathhouses

<https://www.advocate.com/love-and-sex/2020/2/12/san-francisco-may-lift-80s-era-ban-gay-bathhouses>

Novel Coronavirus Fears Cut Chinatown Restaurant Business by 50 Percent

<https://sf.eater.com/2020/2/12/21135104/novel-coronavirus-chinatown-oakland-san-francisco>

Healey files lawsuit against JUUL, alleging a campaign to lure underage teens

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/02/12/metro/ag-files-lawsuit-against-juul-alleging-campaign-lure-underage-teens/>

Matt Haney has become the most visible SF supervisor. Is he eyeing the mayor's office?

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Matt-Haney-has-become-the-most-visible-SF-15048859.php>

Anti-Asian panic is spreading like a virus

<https://www.yourdailyjournal.com/uncategorized/91870/commentary-anti-asian-panic-is-spreading-like-a-virus>

Trial of promising HIV vaccine fails in S.Africa

<https://www.heraldtribune.com/lifestyle/20200211/medicine-trial-of-promising-hiv-vaccine-fails-in-safrica>

Mission District residents stunned at expedited timeline for new mental health and substance abuse shelter

<https://abc7news.com/society/mission-district-residents-stunned-at-timeline-for-new-mental-health-shelter-/5920009/>



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California Lawmakers Have Refused to Restrict Flavored Vaping — Is That About to Change? | KQED News
<https://www.kqed.org/news/11800884/california-lawmakers-have-refused-to-restrict-flavored-vaping-is-that-about-to-change>

Measles Returns to California for 2020
<https://www.webmd.com/children/vaccines/news/20200210/measles-returns-to-california-for-2020>

A San Francisco landmass that's neighbors with Treasure Island is getting 266 new luxury homes, some priced at \$3 million. Here's what the finished project will look like.
<https://www.businessinsider.nl/san-francisco-yerba-buena-treasure-island-luxury-condos-2020-2/>

Should Chicago open safe sites for drug users? There's already a makeshift network — and it's saving lives
https://www.theeagle.com/news/national/should-chicago-open-safe-sites-for-drug-users-there-s/article_a48d0f01-0a4c-5461-9f0f-547211730316.html

The Effect of Coronavirus on American Chinese Restaurants, Explained
<https://www.eater.com/2020/2/10/21131642/novel-coronavirus-american-chinese-restaurants-explained>

Coronavirus: Lessons from past epidemics guide US response to crisis
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/health/article/Coronavirus-Lessons-from-past-epidemics-guide-US-15039917.php>

Chinese New Year Parade 2020 celebrates the Year of the Rat
<https://www.sfxaminer.com/photo-galleries/chinese-new-year-parade-2020-celebrates-the-year-of-the-rat/>

The Opioid Crisis Is Worsening Homelessness in Philly. Solving the Problem Is a Matter of Survival
<https://www.phillymag.com/news/2020/02/08/philadelphia-homeless-opioid-epidemic/>

Coronavirus Fears Put Damper on SF Chinatown Business During New Year Festivities
<https://abc17news.com/news/national-world/2020/02/07/coronavirus-fears-put-damper-on-sf-chinatown-business-during-new-year-festivities/>

What we know about the coronavirus cases in the US
<https://www.wjcl.com/article/what-we-know-about-the-coronavirus-cases-in-the-us/30676264>

The Castro's shame: addiction and mental illness devastate popular neighborhood
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/heatherknight/article/The-Castro-s-shame-addiction-and-mental-15037018.php>

Op-Ed: Panic over the coronavirus recalls other racist chapters in California's history
<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2020-02-07/coronavirus-asian-racism-california-history>



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SF officials urge public to attend Lunar New Year celebration, say there's no coronavirus threat
<https://www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/wires/sf-officials-urge-public-to-attend-lunar-new-year-celebration-say-theres-no-coronavirus-threat-san-francisco-chronicle/>

Coronavirus: Safety concerns ahead of Chinese New Year Parade
<https://abc7news.com/health/coronavirus-safety-concerns-ahead-of-chinese-new-year-parade/5909485/>

San Francisco Chinese New Year Parade attendees encouraged to stay safe, take flu precaution
<https://abc7news.com/health/safety-concerns-ahead-of-chinese-new-year-parade/5909485/>

SF officials urge public to attend Lunar New Year celebration, say there's no coronavirus threat
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/SF-officials-urge-public-to-attend-Lunar-New-Year-15036803.php>

Coronavirus Fears Won't Stop SF Lunar New Year Festivities
<https://www.kqed.org/news/11800359/coronavirus-fears-wont-stop-sf-lunar-new-year-festivities>

SF Public Health Officials, Chinese-Language Media Try to Ease Coronavirus Fears
<https://www.kqed.org/science/1956560/sf-public-health-officials-chinese-language-media-try-to-ease-coronavirus-fears>

San Francisco To Open 1st Drug Sobering Center Under Pilot Program
<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2020/02/06/san-francisco-drug-sobering-center-tenderloin/>

SF Teacher & Residents Speak Out On Superfund SF Treasure Island, TIDA & Charter Schools by Labor Video Project
<https://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2020/02/06/18830452.php>

Breed to transform Tenderloin parking lot into SF's first drug sobering center
<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/breed-to-transform-tenderloin-parking-lot-into-sfs-first-drug-sobering-center/>

Sobering center for meth users to land in Tenderloin as epidemic devastates SF streets
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/heatherknight/article/Meth-sobering-center-to-land-in-Tenderloin-as-15034086.php>

San Francisco paramedics to carry Narcan to curb fatal overdoses
<https://www.kron4.com/news/bay-area/san-francisco-paramedics-to-carry-narcan-to-curb-fatal-overdoses/>

California lawmakers have refused to restrict flavored vaping — is that about to change?
<https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2020/02/05/california-lawmakers-have-refused-to-restrict-flavored-vaping-is-changing/>

San Benito County Couple Infected With Coronavirus Moved to SF General
<https://newburghgazette.com/2020/02/05/san-benito-county-couple-infected-with-coronavirus-moved-to/>



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More People Diagnosed With Coronavirus in Northern California

<http://topactu.net/2020/02/more-people-diagnosed-with-coronavirus-in-northern/>

SF Chinatown Leaders Launch Campaign To Counter False Coronavirus Rumors

<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2020/02/04/sf-chinatown-leaders-launch-campaign-to-counter-false-coronavirus-rumors/>

2 coronavirus cases being treated at UCSF; Chinese New Year Parade is a go

<https://www.ksbw.com/article/2-coronavirus-cases-being-treated-at-ucsf-chinese-new-year-parade-is-a-go/30767969>

San Benito County Couple Infected With Coronavirus Moved to SF Hospital – SFist

<https://voiceofthehwyy.news/san-benito-county-couple-infected-with-coronavirus-moved-to-sf-hospital-sfist/>

San Francisco Applauds Recommendations of State’s Task Force to End Traffic Fatalities

<https://www.sfmta.com/press-releases/san-francisco-applauds-recommendations-states-task-force-end-traffic-fatalities>

2 Coronavirus Cases Being Treated at UCSF; Chinese New Year Parade is a Go – NBC Los Angeles

<https://theunionjournal.com/2-coronavirus-cases-being-treated-at-ucsf-chinese-new-year-parade-is-a-go-nbc-los-angeles/>

Doctor who sent coronavirus warning message in December reprimanded by Chinese authorities

<https://www.msn.com/en-sg/news/world/doctor-who-sent-coronavirus-warning-message-in-december-reprimanded-by-chinese-authorities/ar-BBZCnT3>

2 coronavirus patients hospitalized in San Francisco

<https://www.kron4.com/health/coronavirus/2-coronavirus-patients-hospitalized-in-san-francisco/>

Coronavirus outbreak: SF hospital caring for 2 patients diagnosed in another county, officials say

<https://voiceofthehwyy.news/coronavirus-outbreak-sf-hospital-caring-for-2-patients-diagnosed-in-another-county-officials-say-kgo-tv/>

Students talk about recent fentanyl-laced cocaine epidemic

<https://theaggie.org/2020/02/03/students-talk-about-recent-fentanyl-laced-cocaine-epidemic/>