



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 January 21, 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>

New Coronavirus Prompts CDC to Begin Screening Passengers at SFO Arriving from Wuhan China

In a rapidly evolving situation, 45 people have been sickened with a novel coronavirus that originated in Wuhan, China. Most of the cases have been identified in Wuhan, and there have been three cases identified in travelers from Wuhan to other countries (two in Thailand and one in Japan). The first cases were identified on December 8, 2019, initially associated with exposure to a large seafood and live animal market, which has since been closed.

The CDC is the lead agency for this issue in the United States and is working closely with the World Health Organization and Chinese health authorities on the response. The CDC has issued a travel notice, instructing people planning a trip to Wuhan to practice precautions. With the Lunar New Year coming up January 25, this is a busy month for travel to and from China. The CDC has also issued a health advisory to providers and states that the risk to the public is low.

This past weekend the CDC planned to begin screening passengers disembarking from Wuhan at the three U.S. airports with the highest volume of such travelers: JFK in New York City, LAX in Los Angeles, and SFO in San Mateo County. JFK and SFO are the only two airports in the country with direct flights from Wuhan. The screening is anticipated to continue at least through the end of the month.

The screenings will take place in customs, and passengers with no symptoms or risk factors will be given educational material and instructions about what to do if they experience symptoms in the next 14 days. Passengers with symptoms and risk factors will be further triaged, tested for the new virus and provided with care as needed, including treatment at a health facility as appropriate.

The CDC cautions that information about the virus is still developing. DPH is monitoring the situation closely and working together with CDC, the state department of public health and regional health departments. We also are concerned about the impact on the Chinese community in San Francisco, and will be preparing educational materials for them.

Governor Releases FY 2020-21 State Budget

On January 10th, Governor Newsom released a \$222 billion budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2020-21, a 2.3 percent increase over the previous year. The proposed budget includes a strong focus on health-related issues, including proposals to address homelessness and behavioral health, health care coverage, and health system costs including prescription drug prices. The Governor will offer a revised proposal in May, and lawmakers



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must approve a budget by June 15. The following provides greater detail on the budget's health-related proposals with potential impact to the department:

Health Care

- **Medi-Cal Healthier California for All** (formerly CalAIM): \$695 million effective January 1, 2021, growing to \$1.4 billion in 2021-22 and 2022-23 to implement the Medi-Cal Healthier California for All initiative. Investments will support enhanced care management and in lieu of services, provide necessary infrastructure to expand whole person care approaches statewide, and build on existing dental initiatives.
- **Expand Medi-Cal for Adults Age 65 and Older**: \$80.5 million to expand full-scope Medi-Cal to adults age 65 and older regardless of immigration status no sooner than January 1, 2021. Expansion expected to cover 27,000 persons in the first year across the state, and an estimated 500 individuals in San Francisco.
- **Continuing Work to Reduce Prescription Drug Costs**: Budget includes five proposals to reduce drug costs for taxpayers, employers, and consumers. These proposals range from establishing a state-run generic drug label to building upon the previously introduced state bulk purchasing program.
- **Medi-Cal Six-Script Limit Change**: Remove the current six prescription limit in fee-for-service Medi-Cal and eliminate existing co-pays for pharmacy services, effective January 1, 2021.

Behavioral Health and Homelessness

- **California Access to Housing and Services Fund**: One-time allocation of \$750 million to establish the California Access to Housing and Services Fund to be used: (1) to pay rent for individuals facing homelessness; (2) to support regions to bring on more dwelling units; and (3) to help stabilize board and care facilities/homes. Philanthropy and the private sector are being asked to contribute to the fund.
- **Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)**: The Administration announced it will propose an update to MHSA in spring 2020 to better focus on early intervention for youth as well as for people with mental illness who are involved in the criminal justice system and are also experiencing homelessness.
- **Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Program**: \$45.3 million in 2020-21 and \$42 million in 2021-22 for Department of Health Care Services to implement a two-year Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Program to provide funding to county-operated community mental health and substance use disorder systems to incentivize system changes and process improvements and prepare for the Medi-Cal Healthier California for All initiative.
- **Medi-Cal Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Benefit Changes**: Addition of all FDA approved drugs to treat opioid addiction to the Medi-Cal State Plan so Medi-Cal beneficiaries needing MAT can be prescribed any of these FDA approved drugs.



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- **Vaping Tax:** New nicotine content-based E-cigarette tax to begin on January 1, 2021, with revenue to be used for youth prevention and other health care programs.
- **Other Tobacco Related Proposals:** Support statewide ban of all flavored nicotine products as of January 1, 2021 and establish task force to combat underground vaping products market led by CA Highway Patrol and Department of Justice.

UCSF / DPH Study shows complex behavioral needs are often overlooked in frequent emergency department users

The study, "Frequent Emergency Department Users: Focusing Solely on Medical Utilization Misses the Whole Person" published in HEALTH AFFAIRS, VOL. 38, NO. 11, was authored by a combination of UCSF and DPH staff including Hemal K. Kanzaria, Matthew Niedzwiecki, Caroline L. Cawley, Carol Chapman, Sarah H. Sabbagh, Emily Riggs, Alice Hm Chen, Maria X. Martinez, and Maria C. Raven. The research shows that frequent ED users in San Francisco demonstrated significant use of medical, mental health, substance use, and social services. They also commonly experienced stressors linked to health-related social needs and high death rates. Compared to nonfrequent ED users, frequent ED users and superfrequent ED users were disproportionately homeless. A higher proportion of frequent users (28 percent) and superfrequent users (54 percent) sought substance use disorder services, compared to nonfrequent ED users (8 percent). Similarly, 46 percent of frequent ED users and 67 percent of superfrequent ED users sought mental health services, compared to 22 percent of nonfrequent ED users. This group also had more sobering center visits, a disproportionate use of housing and jail health services, and a higher prevalence of coexisting medical, mental health, and substance use disorders.

These findings point to an urgent need for information sharing and care coordination across sectors, at the patient and population level. Integrated health and social data can help identify patients who might benefit from care management, and be used to measure the impact of interventions that target this vulnerable population. Findings and recommendations from this study have reinforced the need to support the integrated data system being used to coordinate care in San Francisco's interagency Shared Priority project and the integrated ZSFG Social Medicine Team project. The complete study can be found here:

<https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/abs/10.1377/hlthaff.2019.00082?journalCode=hlthaff>

UC Expert Review of Radiation Testing Procedures at Hunters Point Naval Shipyard Delivered to Mayor

Mayor London N. Breed, City Attorney Dennis Herrera and Supervisor Shamann Walton on January 17 received the findings from University of California, San Francisco and University of California, Berkeley experts regarding their review of the radiation testing procedures used at the Hunters Point Shipyard.



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In response to a request by the Mayor, the City Attorney and Supervisor Walton, the panel of UC experts independently evaluated the appropriateness of the testing protocols for Parcels A and G at Hunters Point Naval Shipyard. The report concludes that the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) health and safety scan on Parcel A was appropriate as a health and safety survey. The report also concludes that the Navy's partial Work Plan and proposed procedures for the retest of Parcel G are appropriate, as long as the final plan meets the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) approval. The report further recommends that any determination as to the appropriate development on Parcel G not be made until all of the retesting data are available for review.

I thank Mayor Breed, Supervisor Walton and City Attorney Herrera for requesting this additional layer of oversight so that the community can have full confidence that their health and safety is the City's top priority in the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard cleanup and restoration project. We greatly appreciate the University of California lending their expertise to this critical topic.

DPH's only concern is for the health and safety of the community. DPH reviews information from the Navy and the regulatory agencies and helps to verify that the cleanup and restoration and subsequent transfer of land to the city will continue to protect public health, and to ensure that the redevelopment is done in a safe manner, consistent with all federal and state regulatory requirements.

We will continue to closely monitor the Naval Shipyard cleanup and restoration and to provide information and advocate for the community's health as the project progresses. We are committed to sharing validated information with the community, and we are not invested in any outcome other than the health and safety of city residents, employees and visitors.

The UC report can be viewed at www.ucsf.edu/news/2020/01/416471/ucsf-releases-report-hunters-point-naval-shipyard-testing-protocols. Supervisor Walton will host a community meeting to discuss the report on Tuesday, January 28th, 2020, at 7:00pm at 451 Galvez Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94124. UC experts will be available to answer questions about the report.

Southeast Health Center hosts public meeting Jan. 28

Southeast Health Center will host a community meeting on January 28 to inform patients and San Francisco residents of an expansion project to build a new primary care facility adjacent to the current clinic in Bayview-Hunters Point. The project's groundbreaking is expected in spring 2020. Project completion is targeted for 2022. All dates and details are subject to change. The facility will be two floors, 22,000 square feet, and will have 21 patient rooms. Southeast primary care services will relocate to the new building. The existing Dental Clinic and administrative operations will remain in the current building at 2401 Keith St. The Dental Clinic was previously remodeled in phase 1 of the project.

The 2016 Public Health and Safety Bond will fund the expansion. The bond is also funding remodel projects



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at Maxine Hall Health Center (under construction) and Castro-Mission Health Center (groundbreaking expected summer 2020). The Southeast public meeting will be 6 – 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020 at the Dr. George W. Davis Senior Center, 1751 Carroll Ave. San Francisco, CA 94124. Please download and share the meeting flyer with your community: bit.ly/SEHCmtg_1_28_20.

DPH in the News (Jan 1 – Jan 17, 2020)

California Launches Bold Plan to End HIV, STIs

<https://www.advocate.com/politics/2020/1/16/california-launches-bold-plan-end-hiv-sti>

Report: Halt urged for new cannabis biz permits

<https://www.ebar.com/news/news/286750/report-halt-urged-for-new-cannabis-biz-permits>

Free dental care for all? SF Supervisor wants city to explore the possibility

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/Free-dental-care-for-all-SF-Supervisor-wants-14975512.php>

Fur Trade Group Sues To Challenge SF Ban On Fur Sales

<https://www.sfgate.com/news/bayarea/article/Fur-Trade-Group-Sues-To-Challenge-Sf-Ban-On-Fur-14973061.php>

'They've been getting sicker': Inside SF's effort to help the toughest homeless cases

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/They-ve-been-getting-sicker-Inside-14969929.php>

Residents of San Francisco's Treasure Island believe nuclear contamination has made them sick for years. The site is getting 8,000 new homes. <https://newsus.app/residents-of-san-franciscos-treasure-island-believe-nuclear-contamination-has-made-them-sick-for-years-the-site-is-getting-8000-new-homes/>

Haney Calls For Stronger City Policies Regarding Trashcans, Illegal Dumping

<https://www.sfgate.com/news/bayarea/article/Haney-Calls-For-Stronger-City-Policies-Regarding-14964315.php>

Boudin sworn in as new SF district attorney

<https://www.ebar.com/news/news/286599>

Paul Miyamoto Becomes State's 1st Asian-American Sheriff Elected Into Office

<https://www.sfgate.com/news/bayarea/article/Paul-Miyamoto-Becomes-State-s-1st-Asian-American-14960531.php>



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A busy year awaits SF mayor

https://www.ebar.com/news/news/286534/a_busy_year_awaits_sf_mayor

City to renovate three health clinics in new year

https://www.ebar.com/news/news/286432/city_to_renovate_three_health_clinics_in_new_year

SF declares a 'public health crisis on drug overdoses'

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/sf-declares-a-public-health-crisis-on-drug-overdoses/>

Patient sues SF over abuse at Laguna Honda Hospital

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/patient-sues-sf-over-abuse-at-laguna-honda-hospital/>

At least 236 people were killed in car crashes in 2019. More than half were walking.

<https://la.curbed.com/2020/1/6/21048481/los-angeles-car-crashes-traffic-deaths-stats-2019>

Three people hospitalized after being struck by cars in separate San Francisco incidents

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/crime/article/Woman-teen-injured-after-being-struck-by-cars-in-14947448.php>