



## 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 July 7, 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 pauses reopening and urges residents across the region to stay home and stay safe for Fourth of July weekend**

Today, there are over 3,776 San Francisco residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19. And, sadly, a total of 50 San Franciscans have died. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) sends our condolences to their loved ones.

On June 26, Mayor London Breed and Dr. Grant Colfax, Director of Health, announced that San Francisco is experiencing a concerning increase in local COVID-19 cases, and as a result will be temporarily delaying the reopening of certain businesses and activities scheduled to be allowed to resume on Monday, June 29th. These include: hair salons and barber shops, nail salons, tattoo salons, museums, zoos, outdoor bars, and outdoor swimming. There is no change to businesses and activities currently allowed under prior reopening phases.

With COVID-19 spreading rapidly in many Bay Area neighborhoods, health officials across the region urge residents to protect themselves and the community by celebrating from home this holiday weekend. On July 2, health officers from across the greater Bay Area emphasized that staying home this year is a healthy choice. Gatherings with others from outside your household, such as members of the extended family, are potentially risky.

You can spread COVID-19 even if you do not feel that sick. You can pass the disease to someone else before you have symptoms, and even if you never develop any symptoms at all. When people who have contracted the infection come in contact with high-risk people, there can be deadly consequences. That is why Bay Area health officers recommend people who are not members of the same household remain physically distant. The best ways to protect yourself and slow the spread of COVID-19 include:

- Continuing to stay home as much as possible
- Practicing physical distancing outside the home
- Wearing face coverings or masks when outside your home
- Avoiding gatherings with people outside your immediate household



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### Variance approved

On June 25, the California Department of Public Health today approved San Francisco's request for a variance from the State's reopening roadmap. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) is grateful for the Governor's recognition of our city's steady progress in slowing the spread of coronavirus and preparedness for a possible surge of cases. This variance gives San Francisco the flexibility to move at its own pace in reopening certain sectors of the local economy, including lower-risk workplaces like outdoor museums and zoos, with new safety measures in place.

San Francisco's reopening is a partnership between city leaders, health, business and community. City leaders are unified in the commitment to move forward with reopening and also fully aware that reopening too quickly risks health harms and economic setbacks. The City will continue closely monitoring the key health indicators and be ready to pause or reverse any reopening if we see a harmful impact on our hospital systems, essential workers, and vulnerable populations.

### San Francisco cares for Out of County COVID-19 patient as part of mutual aid agreement

On June 18, the City and County of San Francisco accepted its first COVID-19 patient from Southern California in response to a mutual aid request from Imperial County. Currently, the City is providing hospital beds for 23 out of county patients, including patients from San Quentin, Imperial County and Fresno County. These patients are receiving care throughout San Francisco hospitals, including, but not limited to, Zuckerberg San Francisco General. The City is able to provide hospital beds for these patients because of emergency planning to create hospital capacity for a potential surge of COVID-19 patients.

While San Francisco's reopening is currently on pause, we will continue to monitor the level of COVID-19 in the community and the ability of our health care system to meet the needs of residents. For a current status of our hospital system and other indicators, please visit the San Francisco COVID-19 [Data Tracker](#).

### City prioritizes serving communities most affected by COVID-19

The DPH Department Operations Center (DOC) is partnering with community members in the Sunnydale and Mission neighborhoods to respond to the increase in cases in these communities. In the Sunnydale neighborhood, DPH DOC conducted two testing events in partnership with HOPE SF, the Urban Services Y, Rafiki Coalition, Mercy Housing, and UCSF. Many members of the community were tested at Family Day and a follow up event in the neighborhood. Community groups and members are providing testing outreach and promotion, pre-test counseling on site, and follow up services from a Community Wellness Team for people with positive results. In the Mission, the DPH DOC is supporting the Latino Task Force (LTF) to implement their plan for regular mobile COVID19 testing, community outreach and education, and similar wraparound care



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for people with a positive result from the LTF Community Wellness Team, including food provision, cleaning support, daily check in.

### **Public Health HIV Team presents at AIDS 2020 Conference**

The San Francisco Department of Public Health's (SFDPH) HIV Epidemiology and Surveillance Section will have a strong presence in the upcoming International AIDS Conference, AIDS 2020, this week. The team has nine presentations on topics including, social determinants of health among people diagnosed with HIV, HIV related stigma, shared HIV related disparities between Alameda and San Francisco counties, homelessness and viral suppression, and Rapid HIV treatment start. HIV surveillance data continues to be widely disseminated and used throughout the Bay Area for programmatic decision making and evaluation. We look forward to sharing the SFDPH experience with an international audience at AIDS 2020. In the meantime, we are also working hard to finalize the HIV Epidemiology Report coming later this summer.

### **Behavioral Health partners with community to provide wellness services**

In the month of June 2020, Behavioral Health Services (BHS) collaborated with community partners to provide two online wellness experiences for staff and community, with positive participant response.

On June 26, in collaboration with Dr. Sal Nuñez, LMFT, City College of SF, BHS invited staff to attend Drumming for Staff Wellness, a webinar presenting integration of stories, discussion and medicinal drumming. On June 30, Sugerencias Para Su Bienestar Y Salud, a Latinx Community Wellness online event, hosted in collaboration with BHS, HealSF and the Emergency Operations Center. The event was facilitated in Spanish by Dr. Nuñez and Solymar Solá Negrón, AMFT, Instituto Familiar de la Raza and included COVID-19 tips, breathing exercises, music, song and guided reflections by the two presenters.

### **Black Infant Health update**

Black Infant Health hosted a Pull-Up Baby Shower on Friday, May 15, 2020, an Outdoor Maternity Photo Shoot, and an Outdoor Meet and Greet for participating families on Monday, June 22, 2020. These events were held in support of improving Black/African American infant maternal health and decrease health disparities and social inequities. All events were held outdoors to keep participants actively involved and engaged while practicing safety and social distancing during COVID-19.

Since the beginning of the San Francisco Department of Public Health's (SFDPH) response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, Black Infant Health levied partnerships and expanded support services



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for the families we serve. Black Infant Health, in partnership with Churn Urban Creamery under the Farm Bag for Justice, the SFDPH Food Security Task Force, WIC, Human Services Agency, the Feeling Good Project, African American Arts and Cultural Center, SFGH Midwives, and St. Cyprian's Church-The Village Project, distribute organic fruit bags and care packages including food, diapers, baby formula/food, and children's educational resources to 40-60 families weekly.

In addition, Black Infant Health entered a partnership with EatSF to distribute emergency food vouchers. Since January, Black Infant Health has distributed \$77,100 to participants and community members in need. Through continued outreach efforts, Black Infant Health increased participant enrollment and charitable donations during COVID-19.

### **Laguna Honda champions for racial equity**

Racial equity efforts have continued across SFDPH throughout our on-going COVID-19 response. At Laguna Honda, Yaffa Alter, a racial equity champion, led LHH's first Juneteenth celebration, which included education about the origins of the holiday as well as poetry and music. Chauncey Jackson, a racial equity fellow, organized a poster project that celebrated and highlighted male Black/African American employees and their contributions to LHH. LHH also participated in a silent vigil, organized by ZSFG's Equity Council, to acknowledge the murder of George Floyd. Moreover, LHH's new CEO Michael Phillips has been engaging staff through weekly messages focused on equity throughout the month of June. In July, we will be celebrating LGTBQ+ Pride, highlighting the intersections between race and sexual orientation/gender identity.

### **Proactive outreach to high risk Primary Care patients**

Primary Care is actively outreaching to patients with chronic health conditions to ensure they have everything that they need while they are sheltering in place. Since the initial shelter-in-place order, over 7,300 patients received phone calls and 5,600 of these patients had telephone visits with a provider. During these calls, clinic staff discussed COVID-19 safety precautions, ensured patients had a supply of their medications, screened for concerning symptoms, and made referrals to members of the healthcare team to address food access, medical supplies, tobacco cessation, or other concerns of the patient. Since the San Francisco Health Network started to open a limited number of routine in-clinic visits, Primary Care is now prioritizing outreach for pediatric patients due for immunizations and Black/African American patients with hypertension and diabetes.

### **ZSFG Provider receives Exemplary Service award for 18 years of Primary Care service**



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Each year at the ZSFG Medical Staff Dinner, a community-based primary care provider who's made a significant contribution to the mission of Primary Care over the course of their career in DPH is presented an Exemplary Service award at the banquet.

This year ZSFG recognized Dr. Bill Tarran, our lead Primary Care podiatrist. Dr. Bill Tarren's career in podiatry spans over 30 years. Dr. Tarran joined the San Francisco Health Network Primary Care team 18 years ago, and has put his whole heart, soul, and mind into providing podiatric care to our patients. He has cared for patients at several SFHN primary care clinics, including our homeless clinics, and at the county jails. He is a strong advocate for social justice for underserved communities and shows this through his commitment to giving excellent podiatric care to patients in the Network.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, we scaled back all Ambulatory Care services, moved to telehealth.. Dr. Tarran volunteered to be our anchor provider at the Castro Mission COVID 19 Alternative Testing Site. We greatly appreciate Dr. Tarran's contributions to the Primary Care team, doing whatever he can to benefit patients.

### **City potting regulations revised for safer and more efficient monitoring and reporting**

The Department of Public Health's Environmental Health Branch has published the June 2020 revision to the Rules and Regulations for Alternate Water Source Systems. These rules implement San Francisco Health Code Article 12C and were first issued in 2012 to govern the treatment of rainwater, stormwater, graywater and blackwater for non-potable reuses such as toilet flushing and irrigation. These revisions removed a lot of redundancies and ambiguities in the language and provide new parameters by which we can safely reduce the burden of frequent monitoring and reporting for permitted systems. The revisions were a collaborative effort among SFDPH, SFPUC and many stakeholders, and incorporates thoughtful comments to the review draft released in January.

### **DPH in the News**

Bay Area News, Jul 3 2020, California at a 'make-or-break moment' as it heads into the July 4 weekend

<https://www.orovillemr.com/2020/07/03/coronavirus-california-at-a-make-or-break-moment-as-it-heads-into-the-july-4-weekend/>

SF Gate, Jul 3 2020, What San Francisco contact tracers have learned on the job

<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/what-san-francisco-contact-tracers-have-learned-on-the-job/>



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<https://www.seattlepi.com/offbeat/article/Sex-and-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know-15383386.php>

KTVU, Jul 2 2020, SF leaders urge residents to stay home Fourth of July weekend as COVID-19 crisis deepens

<https://www.ktvu.com/news/sf-leaders-urge-residents-to-stay-home-fourth-of-july-weekend-as-covid-19-crisis-deepens>

CBS, Jul 2 2020, San Francisco Health Department Warns Of Potential Coronavirus Surge

<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2020/07/02/san-francisco-health-department-warns-of-potential-coronavirus-surge/>

SF Chronicle, Jul 2 2020, Bay Area hospitalizations on the rise: 'The surge plan is simmering'

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Bay-Area-hospitalizations-on-the-rise-The-15383267.php>

LA Time, Jul 2 2020, San Francisco cracks down on archdiocese for violating coronavirus rules

<https://triblive.com/news/world/san-francisco-cracks-down-on-archdiocese-for-violating-coronavirus-rules/>

SF Chronicle, Jun 30 2020, SF's 49% surge in hospitalizations puts city on high alert

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Surge-in-cases-hospitalizations-put-Bay-Area-on-15378072.php>

BCN, Jun 30 2020, It's Too Early to Tell When Scaled-Back Reopening Can Resume: SF Health Officials

<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/sf-city-health-officials-say-its-too-early-to-tell-when-scaled-back-reopening-can-resume/2318495/>

PBS, Jun 29 2020, Tracking coronavirus cases proves difficult amid new surge

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/health/tracking-coronavirus-cases-proves-difficult-amid-new-surge>

LA Times, Jun 29 2020, California's slide from coronavirus success to danger zone began Memorial Day

<https://www.expressnews.com/news/article/California-s-slide-from-coronavirus-success-to-15374144.php>

LA Times, Jun 27 2020, California Latino, Black residents hit even harder by coronavirus as white people see less danger



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<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/california-latino-black-residents-hit-even-harder-by-coronavirus-as-white-people-see-less-danger/ar-BB162mRC>

KTVU, Jun 27 2020, San Francisco Zoo postpones reopening due resurgent virus

<https://www.ktvu.com/news/san-francisco-zoo-postpones-reopening-due-resurgent-virus>

Tribune, Jun 27 2020, California cracks down on scofflaw businesses, delays reopenings as coronavirus surges

<https://www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/wires/state-nation-world/california-cracks-down-on-scofflaw-businesses-delays-reopenings-as-coronavirus-surges/>

AP, Jun 26 2020, California counties backtrack on reopening as virus surges

<https://fox40.com/news/california-connection/california-counties-backtrack-on-reopening-as-virus-surges/>

CA Political Review, Jun 25 2020, San Francisco's Plan To Put Homeless In Hotels Not Going Well

<http://www.capoliticalreview.com/top-stories/san-franciscos-plan-to-put-homeless-in-hotels-not-going-well/>

BAR, Jun 24 2020, Protest safety tips during the pandemic

[https://www.ebar.com/news/news/293984/protest\\_safety\\_tips\\_during\\_the\\_pandemic](https://www.ebar.com/news/news/293984/protest_safety_tips_during_the_pandemic)

KTVU, Jun 24 2020, San Francisco hopes to reopen nail salons, barbershops, outdoor bars next week

<https://www.ktvu.com/news/san-francisco-hopes-to-reopen-nail-salons-barbershops-outdoor-bars-next-week>

SF Chronicle, Jun 22 2020, SF looks to speed up reopening salons and bars, citing encouraging health stats

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/SF-looks-to-speed-up-reopening-salons-and-bars-15357585.php>

SF Chronicle, Jun 22 2020, Coronavirus tests are easy to get now, but not always where people need them most

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Coronavirus-tests-are-easy-to-get-now-but-not-15355976.php#photo-19576305>

Hoodline, Jun 22 2020, SF speeds up reopening timeline for hair & nail salons, outdoor bars, more

<https://hoodline.com/2020/06/sf-speeds-up-reopening-timeline-for-hair-nail-salons-outdoor-bars-more>



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<https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/06/22/san-francisco-pushes-to-open-outdoor-bars-salons-at-a-faster-clip/>

SF Eater, Jun 22 2020, San Francisco Bars Reopen for Outdoor Drinking  
<https://sf.eater.com/2020/6/22/21299487/san-francisco-bars-reopening-outdoor-drinking>

Wired, Jun 19 2020, Sheltering in Place Works—If You Can Afford to Stay Home  
<https://www.wired.com/story/shelter-in-place-works-if-you-can-afford-to-stay-home/>

SF Chronicle, Jun 18 2020, UCSF tested thousands of Mission District residents for coronavirus antibodies  
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/health/article/UCSF-tested-thousands-of-Mission-District-15350691.php>