

**Dan Bernal**  
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**Laurie Green, M.D.**  
Vice President  
**Edward A. Chow, M.D.**  
Commissioner  
**Cecilia Chung**  
Commissioner  
**Suzanne Giraudo ED.D**  
Commissioner  
**Tessie M. Guillermo**  
Commissioner

**HEALTH COMMISSION  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN  
FRANCISCO**

**London N. Breed Mayor**  
**Department of Public Health**



**Grant Colfax, MD**  
Director of Health  
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Executive Secretary

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**MINUTES**  
**HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Tuesday June 16, 2020 3:00 p.m.**  
**Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams Live Event**

**1) CALL TO ORDER**

Present: Commissioner Dan Bernal President  
Commissioner Edward A. Chow M.D.  
Commissioner Suzanne Giraudo, Ph.D  
Commissioner Laurie Green, MD  
Commissioner Tessie Guillermo

Excused: Commissioner Cecilia Chung

The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm.

**2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING OF JUNE 16, 2020**

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the Health Commission  
June 2, 2020 meeting minutes.

**3) DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Grant Colfax, Director of Health, gave the report, which can be viewed at:  
<http://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/insideDept/dirRpts/default.asp>

**San Francisco moves to next phase of reopening**

Today, there are over 2,970 San Francisco residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19. And, sadly, a total of 46 San Franciscans have died. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) sends our condolences to their loved ones.

While the DPH and city government continue preparing for the future phases of reopening, San Francisco's health indicators are an important tool to monitor the level of COVID-19 in the community and the ability of our health care system to meet the needs of residents. The Health Indicators monitor cases, hospital system, testing, contact tracing and personal protective equipment. The Health Indicators are not an on/off switch for the reopening, but instead measure the pandemic in San Francisco and our ability to manage it. Starting today, they are posted on the San Francisco COVID-19 Data Tracker so that San Franciscans can stay informed.

On June 15, San Francisco's phased reopening moved forward into Phase 2B, allowing more business and social activities to resume with required safety protocols in place. San Francisco is continuing to make progress slowing the spread of COVID-19, is meeting several key health indicators, and is aligned with state guidance as it gradually allows more activities. Starting this week, retail businesses are allowing customers to shop inside with safety modifications, and some additional outdoor activities may resume, including small outdoor gatherings with 12 people or fewer.

On June 12, San Francisco restaurants began offering outdoor dining, following the success of curbside retail and some outdoor activities that were allowed in mid-May. An amendment to the current Stay Home Order released last week outlines the specific health and safety protocols required for the activity. Only food facilities that provide permitted sit-down meal service are allowed to open for outdoor dining. Meals must be prepared and served by the outdoor dining establishment or another person or business operating under an agreement with the outdoor dining establishment. Brewpubs, breweries, bars, pubs, craft distilleries, wineries, and tasting rooms that do not provide permitted sit-down meal service must remain closed to the public, except for takeaway retail sales allowed by the order.

The City remains focused on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, while also actively planning for San Francisco's recovery. Part of San Francisco's recovery includes finding ways to more safely reopen parts of the economy, including allowing curbside pickup at retail stores, and identifying other creative solutions to support businesses and their employees. Given that social distancing requirements will continue to apply until there is a vaccine for the virus, the Shared Spaces Program will support businesses by expanding their ability to operate into outdoor public spaces, providing additional space for required distancing among employees and customers.

The City plans to allow additional social and business activities in the coming weeks and months if key health indicators are met and residents and businesses continue to follow safety guidelines and requirements that are critical to protecting employees and customers of businesses that are reopening. The public's continued partnership and cooperation with face coverings and other health precautions such as social distancing, frequent handwashing, staying home if sick, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces are essential to continue reopening.

San Francisco's reopening plan is aligned with State guidelines and is based on a San Francisco-specific risk model to control the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health. The plan is also informed by the work of the San Francisco COVID-19 Economic Recovery Task Force and the DPH monitoring of the virus. As the City reopens with a focus on safety and equity, DPH will continue to track the impact of the virus on the community and health system to inform public policy. As people start to move about the city more and increase activities, San Francisco will likely experience increases in cases and hospitalizations. As San Francisco continues to reopen, the City will address the disparities already identified for low-wage workers, people who must leave home to work, and workers who live in crowded conditions.

#### Reopening Guidance for Safer Social Interactions

On June 5, Mayor Breed and Director of Health Dr. Grant Colfax announced new health guidance that provides the public with information and resources on how to be as safe as possible if interacting with people outside their households, with the goal of continuing the effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Although the Stay Home Order is still in place, San Francisco recognizes that people may be starting to see family and friends again and is using a harm reduction model to provide guidance on the safest ways to do so.

Because San Franciscans have so carefully followed public health guidance to date, San Francisco continues to flatten the curve and is slowly and safely reopening as it meets key health indicators, in alignment with state guidance.

San Francisco's reopening plan is aligned with the State's guidelines and is based on a San Francisco-specific risk model to control the spread of COVID-19 and protect public health. As the City allows additional activities and businesses to resume over the next few months, the Department of Public Health will issue additional guidance. For now, the public should follow this new guidance while continuing to wear face coverings, wash hands frequently, and stay at least 6 feet from people outside their households.

#### Guidance for Safer Social Interactions

The first step when considering a social interaction during the COVID-19 pandemic is to assess your risk and the risk of your loved ones. If you or someone in your household is over the age of 60 or living with a chronic health condition such as diabetes or lung disease, the risk of an interaction increases. If you choose to interact with people outside your household, you can make it safer by:

- Doing the activity outdoors.
- Staying 6 feet apart and wearing a face covering.
- Avoiding the use of shared objects like utensils and toys.
- Limiting the number of households and people involved.
- Staying home if you are feeling unwell – especially if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms like fever, cough, or fatigue.
- For more detailed guidance for limited social interactions, go to [SF.gov/safersocializing](https://sf.gov/safersocializing).

#### Testing

San Francisco continues to lead the Bay Area in testing. We have made significant progress toward our goal of expanding our testing capacity to meet the needs of people in our community, especially for people in vulnerable populations. Francisco has made great strides in building testing capacity and getting people tested and are continuing to work on expanding testing as it is a key health indicator that impacts the progress of our re-opening. As of today, over 102,000 people in San Francisco have been tested, and an average of 4% have tested positive. We have goal of testing between 1,600-2,000 people per day, based on state guidelines and our population.

We are able to test anyone that matches any of the below criteria:

- any worker that serves San Francisco and who leaves their home to work can get tested for COVID-19, regardless of symptoms or exposure.
- any person living in San Francisco with at least one symptom of COVID-19 or who has been exposed to someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 can get tested.
- any person who has come in close contact with a confirmed case, regardless of symptoms

#### **Soda Tax funding will provide emergency food for people affected by COVID-19**

On June 1, Mayor London N. Breed, Supervisor Shamann Walton, Chair of California State Board of Equalization Malia Cohen, and Director of Health Dr. Grant Colfax, announced that \$1.65 million in funds raised by the Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax (SDDT), more commonly known as the SF Soda Tax, will be used to provide emergency relief to those struggling to purchase food as a result of the impacts of COVID-19. The funding closely follows recommendations the SDDT Advisory Committee made at its March 2020 meeting.

Because the COVID-19 pandemic exploits the pre-existing inequities in our society, it impacts communities that experience health disparities, economic inequality and discrimination more significantly. Due to these impacts, the funds from the Soda Tax will specifically support low-income people, seniors, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and undocumented immigrants.

The use of the funding began in early May 2020 and will be used by the San Francisco Wholesale Produce Market to purchase produce and shelf-stable foods for community groups that are distributing meals to their members, including the Bayview Senior Center and the San Francisco African American Faith Based Coalition, among others. Moreover, the funds will support the San Francisco Unified School District's efforts to continue providing meals to students. Funding will allow the Housing Authority, Mission Language and Vocational School, and partners to provide food to undocumented immigrants and public housing residents, and will support Black and African American faith-based groups and other vulnerable residents. The contracts with these organizations are being finalized.

#### **DPH in the News**

LA Times, Jun 16 2020, The kind of mask can actually spread the coronavirus.

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-06-16/coronavirus-mask-droplet-spread-n95-vent>

The Body Pro, Jun 16 2020, New study shows on-demand PrEP effectiveness

<https://www.thebodypro.com/article/on-demand-prep-effectiveness>

SF Examiner, Jun 15 2020, Restaurants, retailers gradually reopening to public

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/restaurants-retailers-gradually-reopening-to-public/>

Patch, Jun 15 2020, San Francisco Moves To Next Phase Of Reopening

<https://patch.com/california/san-francisco/san-francisco-moves-next-phase-reopening>

SF Chronicle, Jun 14 2020, He's been SF's most powerful person in pandemic response. You don't know his name

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/He-s-been-SF-s-most-powerful-person-in-15339439.php>

SF Chronicle, Jun 12 2020, Soda Tax funds find new purpose

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/food/article/SF-soda-tax-funds-find-new-purpose-fighting-15334696.php>

SF Chronicle, Jun 10 2020, SF doctor shares notes from front line: 'It's really heartbreaking'

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/SF-doctor-shares-notes-from-front-line-It-s-15328635.php>

SF Chronicle, Jun 10 2020, Too much, too soon? Bay Area reopening despite recent surge in coronavirus cases

<https://www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/wires/too-much-too-soon-bay-area-reopening-despite-recent-surge-in-coronavirus-cases-san-francisco-chronicle/>

Hoodline, Jun 9 2020, Outdoor dining to return to SF Friday; indoor retail to resume Monday

<https://hoodline.com/2020/06/outdoor-dining-to-return-to-sf-friday-indoor-retail-to-resume-monday>

KRON, Jun 5 2020, San Francisco issues guidelines for safer social interactions

<https://www.kron4.com/news/bay-area/san-francisco-issues-guidelines-for-safer-social-interactions/>

SF Gate, Jun 5 2020, San Francisco releases guidelines on how to safely expand social circles

<https://www.sfgate.com/coronavirus/article/San-Francisco-releases-guidelines-on-how-to-15320806.php>

DNYUZ, Jun 5 2020, Fearing protests could spread virus, San Francisco has set up a pop-up testing site

<https://dnyuz.com/2020/06/05/fearing-protests-could-spread-virus-san-francisco-has-set-up-a-pop-up-testing-site/>

KQED, Jun 2 2020, Community-Led Effort Brings Free COVID-19 Testing to SF's Bayview, Visitacion Valley

<https://www.kqed.org/news/11822167/community-led-effort-brings-free-covid-19-testing-to-bayview-hunters-point>

#### Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Bernal thanked Dr. Colfax for the report.

#### **4) COVID-19 UPDATE**

Grant Colfax, MD, DPH Director of Health gave a general COVID-19 update. Naveena Bobba, MD, Deputy Director of Health, presented a presentation on the California Department of Public Health Variance process.

#### Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chow asked for more information regarding how the COVID-19 Indicator system will look to the public. Dr. Colfax noted that the “Hospital Care System” metrics will be primary in considering what color indicator to assign; however, the other metrics listed in his presentation will also be considered.

Commissioner Bernal asked that the Data Indicator site be shared with the public during the meeting. The following links give additional COVID-19 related data:

<https://data.sfgov.org/stories/s/fjki-2fab>

<https://datasf.org/healthindicators>

Commissioner Bernal asked if replication rates are considered in the color indicators. Dr. Colfax stated that the replication rate is an important metric to track. However, it only gives a picture retrospectively so will not be used as a source for the color indicators.

Commissioner Giraudo asked for a timeline for getting the variance application submitted. Dr. Bobba stated that the DPH hopes to submit the application in the next 7-14 days. Dr. Colfax stated that the Health Officer, Dr. Tomas Aragon, has jurisdiction regarding the submission of the variance; he noted that Dr. Aragon was meeting with the Board of Supervisors at the same time as the Health Commission meeting.

Commissioner Chow asked how the variance process may bring a difference in reopening timelines for the Bay Area counties. Dr. Bobba stated that Contra Costa County has already submitted a variance application; Marin and Alameda Counties are also looking into the variance process. She noted that transportation within counties is being considered in every step of the reopening planning process. She noted the equity plays an important role in the decision-making regarding the reopening planning process.

Commissioner Guillermo noted that San Francisco seems more conservative in its COVID-19-related planning and asked if there are specific areas in which San Francisco be slower to reopen. Dr. Bobba noted that San Francisco is the second most dense city in the country and decisions regarding COVID-19 have taken into consideration this factor. She added that the variance will allow San Francisco to have local control over its reopening process. Dr. Colfax stated that there is no guaranteed roadmap for reopening. San Francisco will continue to make data-driven decisions with the best intentions.

Commissioner Green noted the importance of face coverings in the prevention of COVID-19 and asked how San Francisco plans on reinforcing the message as it reopens. Dr. Bobba stated that public transportation has been a major consideration in the reopening plan. This includes planning to ensure masks are made available for riders of public transportation. Consideration for supplying all CCSF departments staff who regularly engage with the public to have masks to distribute is being considered.

Commissioner Chow asked for more information regarding how data will be used to determine the indicators and how this process may interact with decisions regarding reopening. Dr. Colfax stated that the indicators are not used as on/off switches for the stages of reopening; the indicators are going to be updated weekly as a way to communicate with the public.

Commissioner Bernal asked for an update on timeline for obtaining required endorsements for the variance application process. Dr. Bobba stated that the Board of Supervisors was meeting with Dr. Aragon during the same time as the Health Commission meeting to discuss the variance application; the Hospital Council has also been approached.

#### **5) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no general public comment.

**6) DPH PROPOSED BUDGET, FY20-21 AND FY21-22**

Greg Wagner, DPH CFO, and Jen Louie, DPH Budget Manager, presented the item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Bernal thanked Mr. Wagner and Ms. Louie for the work on the extensive budget in a short amount of time. He asked if the proposed budget includes the possibility of future federal legislation. Ms. Louie stated that there is an assumption of \$28M of the CARES Act federal funding. She noted that the City has already received \$22M from the CARES Act funding. Mr. Wagner noted that the \$28M has already been approved but not yet appropriated.

Commissioner Bernal asked if the recent Mayoral announcement regarding Police Reforms will have any impact on the DPH budget. Ms. Louie stated that local changes in the Police Department may impact the DPH budget in the future. Mr. Wagner stated that the DPH has begun to work with the Mayor's Office on this issue and the Commission will be updated as more information is known.

Commissioner Guillermo asked whether the Health Commission will have an opportunity to review the COVID-19 related DPH budget as it is developed. Mr. Wagner stated that the DPH will bring this to the Commission as it is developed.

Commissioner Guillermo asked for more information regarding the A7 Budget line relating to payments relating to Medicare reimbursement. Mr. Wagner stated that the A7 line is a net amount based on the Medicare formula. He noted that the DPH still anticipates losses in hospital care, primary care, and behavioral health services. He added that the amount of FEMA reimbursement is still unknown.

Commissioner Giraudo asked for more information regarding planning for Mental Health SF. Dr. Colfax stated that originally the Mental Health SF budget was projected to be approximately \$100M, without funds identified by the City to fund this initiative. Mr. Wagner added that the DPH is attempting to build key elements of infrastructure of the initiative in its budget.

Commissioner Chow noted that the DPH is using one-time funds to help the budget this year and added that his is concerned about the DPH plan for a 5-year budget in a possible weak economy. Mr. Wagner stated that the DPH has put forth the proposed budget using all available tools. This enables the DPH to better understand the economy and the level of federal support.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the DPH FY20-21/FY21-22 Budget.

**7) ANNUAL FY19-20 DPH SOLE SOURCE WAIVER USAGE REPORT  
SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN JUNE TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CITY'S  
SUNSHINE ORDINANCE (SF ADMIN CODE, CHAPTER 67.24).**

Michelle Ruggels, Director of the SFDPH Business Office, presented the item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chow thanked Ms. Ruggels for the report, which clarifies important financial issues for the Commission.

**8) ANNUAL REQUEST TO THE HEALTH COMMISSION FOR ADVANCE  
APPROVAL OF POTENTIAL CHAPTER 21.42 SOLE SOURCE WAIVER USAGE IN FY20-21.**

Michelle Ruggels, Director of the SFDPH Business Office, presented the item.

This item was deferred for action until the June 23, 2020 meeting so the Health Commission Secretary could ascertain appropriate procedure for addressing Commission conflict of interest with specific items on the report.

**9) OTHER BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Bernal noted that the Health Commission has requested a presentation on DPH Equity activities at an upcoming meeting. Commissioner Chow requested that the Equity presentation include information regarding the disproportionate amount of COVID-19 cases in the Latinx community.

Commissioner Giraudo suggested that the DPH Equity presentation include ZSFG Equity initiatives. She also requested that the 7/7/20 Health Commission BHS Update include information on plans for the Youth Guidance Center closure.

**10) ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:42pm.