



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 June 16, 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 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.



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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.



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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. San 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.



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- 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/>



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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>