



## 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 September 1, 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>

### **State Governor announces a new tiered system for reopening**

On August 28, the State announced a new tiered system for reopening. San Francisco is currently reviewing the State's new tiered system for reopening and how it impacts the City's future reopening. The Department of Public Health will review the changes to the State watch list and return next week with any impacts on how the City will move forward.

### **San Francisco to Resume Outdoor Personal Services Starting September 1**

Today, there are over 9,500 San Francisco residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19. And, sadly, a total of 83 San Franciscans have died. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) sends our condolences to their loved ones.

On August 28, Mayor London N. Breed and Dr. Grant Colfax, Director of Public Health, announced that outdoor personal services will resume in San Francisco, effective Tuesday, September 1, 2020. Outdoor gyms and fitness centers can reopen starting September 9, 2020. Additionally, the Mayor and Dr. Colfax announced that once San Francisco is removed from the State's watch list, the City's top priorities for reopening will be the gradual opening of classrooms, services that support the development of children, and other activities that can occur outdoors.

Outdoor personal services that can operate include haircuts, barber services, massages and nail services. Only those services where both clients and providers can be masked at all times are allowed to resume. The City has posted information and guidance in multiple languages for businesses and is conducting outreach to personal services businesses to ensure they have access to the guidance and are able to prepare accordingly.

DPH will continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 infection as more of the City population circulates and interacts, and will keep reviewing the City's Key Public Health Indicators to ensure San Francisco's gradual reopening and allowance of outdoor personal services does not drive a surge in infections and hospitalizations.



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Once San Francisco is off the State's watch list and DPH determines it is safe to begin reopening, the City's gradual reopening will focus on equity and safety, opening those areas with the least risk while helping those who are suffering as a result of the Stay Home Order. Schools, community hubs and after-school programs provide a critical source of support for children, youth, and their families, and help mitigate socio-economic disparities through school meal programs and social, physical, behavioral, and mental health services. Therefore, returning children to learning environments, whether it is a classroom, a community hub, or after school program, remains a top priority for the City.

Since San Francisco remains on the State's watch list, in-classroom learning can continue only for elementary schools with a waiver from DPH. Over 50 schools have notified DPH of their desire to apply for waivers for in-classroom learning. Waiver applications are available for distribution this week.

Focused enrollment for the City's community hubs began this week and is offered to select families based on priority population criteria, which includes: HOPE SF, public housing; homeless youth; foster care youth; English language learners; low-income Black/African American, Latino, Pacific Islander and Asian families.

### **Department of Public Health Fiscal Year 20-21 Budget Update**

On August 27, the Board's Budget and Appropriations Committee amended and passed the Mayor's approved budget out of committee for consideration at the full Board. Overall DPH's budget remains at \$2.8 billion for FY 2020-21 and \$2.4 billion in FY 2021-22, with only minor changes described below. We are pleased that our proposed initiatives remain intact and additional critical services have been funded, and are grateful for the support we have received from the Mayor's Office and Board of Supervisors.

As part of the review by the Budget and Legislative Analyst, DPH's budget was reduced by \$4.3 million in FY 2019-2020 and \$1.9 million in FY 2020-2021. The proposed reductions are at a similar level to those of prior years and represent less than 1% of DPH's total budget. They are administrative in nature and will not affect our ability to deliver services or our ability to provide an effective COVID-19 response.

Offsetting the reductions, the Board of Supervisors allocated back \$4.6 million in FY 2020-21 and \$2.0 million in FY 21-22 for services at DPH. The programs initially assigned to DPH are outlined below. As in prior years, we will validate the final allocation of services in the Board of Supervisors spending plans over the next week and will update you if this list changes.



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| Program  | 20-21        | 21-22        |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Expansion of Maternal Child Health Programs to improve health outcomes of Black African American children and mothers, including doula support and supplemental income         | 2,000,000    | 2,000,000    |
| Support for healthcare workers at health centers in the Mission  | 130,000      | 130,000      |
| Support for gender affirming primary care, gynecological care, and mental health services for cisgender women and transgender people   | 1,200,000    | 1,200,000    |
| COVID testing at Community Hubs  | 1,000,000    | -            |
| Campaigns for safer streets for those most impacted by pedestrian safety issues, including children, communities of color, people with disabilities, and seniors in District 5 | 15,000       | -            |
|  | \$ 4,345,000 | \$ 3,330,000 |

The budget will now move to the Full Board for two hearings on September 15<sup>th</sup> and September 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will continue to keep you posted should there be any further changes to the budget.

## San Francisco residents to stay home during poor air quality conditions

San Francisco is experiencing unusually hazy and smoky air as a result of the multiple fires currently burning throughout California, including in the northern counties and Santa Cruz county. The air quality in our area changes daily and throughout the day as it is dependent on wind speed and direction. Air quality may improve at times or worsen very quickly. We are closely monitoring the Air Quality Index and are prepared if it changes.

Even during days of poor air quality conditions, we must continue to protect ourselves and our community from COVID-19. The best and healthiest thing for everyone to do to avoid exposure to outdoor air and the virus is staying indoors as much as possible. If you must leave your home and go out for essential activity, remember to bring your face coverings and socially distance from people outside of your household to protect yourself and your community from COVID-19.

In addition to staying indoors, check on your friends, family and neighbors—especially those people in your life who are older, pregnant, have respiratory illness or are children. These are individuals who are at greater risk when there are elevated air pollution levels and should take precautions to avoid exposure.

During this pandemic, we must all take actions to protect ourselves and our community from COVID-19, but also from other health hazards including extreme heat and poor air quality. We continue to find ways to protect each other and our community and we will continue to rise to the occasion.



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### DPH in the News

Mission Local, Aug 31 2020, State sends huge stash of PPE to San Francisco – supplies handed out in the Mission

<https://missionlocal.org/2020/08/state-sends-huge-stash-of-ppe-to-san-francisco-supplies-handed-out-in-the-mission/>

SF Examiner, Aug 31 2020, Fatal drug overdoses soar to 441 in SF in 2019, new report shows

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/fatal-drug-overdoses-soar-to-441-in-in-sf-in-2019-new-report-shows/>

Cronkite News, Aug 28 2020, COVID-19 work-arounds are silver linings for homeless programs

<https://cronkitenews.azpbs.org/2020/08/28/coronavirus-homeless-work-arounds-turn-into-silver-linings/>

SF Business Times, Aug 28 2020, SF officials to allow outdoor reopening at salons, gyms, starting next week

<https://www.bizjournals.com/sanfrancisco/news/2020/08/28/sf-reopen-outdoors-for-gyms-salons.html>

SF Chronicle, Aug 28 2020, San Francisco clears barbershops, nail salons and gyms to open outdoors, just in time for wildfire smoke

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/business/article/San-Francisco-to-resume-outdoor-personal-services-15522509.php>

SF Chronicle, Aug 28 2020, Bay briefing: hotels sheltering wildfire evacuees – and a bird or two

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Bay-Briefing-Hotels-sheltering-wildfire-evacuees-15520904.php>

SF Chronicle, Aug 28 2020, SF and Napa schools could get green light to open in two weeks

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/education/article/16-000-SF-students-headed-to-learning-hubs-or-15522487.php#photo-14405696>

SF Examiner, Aug 28 2020, Health officials to begin taking waiver applications from elementary schools



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<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/health-officials-to-begin-taking-waiver-applications-from-elementary-schools/>

SF Public Press, Aug 28 2020, What crowding looks like during a pandemic: dismal days in the Tenderloin

<https://sfpublicpress.org/what-crowding-looks-like-during-a-pandemic-dismal-days-in-the-tenderloin/>

Mission Local, Aug 25 2020, Carnaval 2020 aims to test 2,000 people for COVID for free

<https://missionlocal.org/2020/08/caranaival-2020-aims-to-test-2000-people/>

SF Examiner, Aug 25 2020, SF speeds up jail closure to early September

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/sf-speeds-up-jail-closure-to-early-september/>

SF Chronic, Aug 24 2020, Does racism make us sick? Amid a national reckoning, the question gains new importance

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/health/article/Does-racism-make-us-sick-Amid-a-national-15508855.php>

SF Public Press, Aug 24 2020, Air pollution worsens COVID-19, but Bay Area emissions limits are unchanged

<https://sfpublicpress.org/air-pollution-worsens-covid-19-but-bay-area-emissions-limits-are-unchanged/>

KQED, Aug 21 2020, Masks for smoke and COVID-19 – what kind is best?

<https://www.kqed.org/news/11834305/masks-for-smoke-and-covid-19-what-kind-is-best>

Mission Local, Aug 21 2020, Nurses demand sheriffs' discharge from San Francisco General Hospital

<https://missionlocal.org/2020/08/nurses-demand-sheriffs-discharge-from-san-francisco-general-hospital/>

SF Examiner, Aug 21 2020, Mental-health crisis teams could replace police response

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/sf-to-launch-mental-health-crisis-teams-to-replace-police-response/>



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Los Angeles Times, Aug 20 2020, Bay Area has the world's worst air quality thanks to this week's Northern California fires

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-08-20/air-quality-danger-san-francisco-wildfire-smoke-ash>

SF News, Aug 20, 2020, San Francisco will no longer have high-end dining domes

<https://www.thesfnews.com/san-francisco-will-no-longer-have-high-end-dining-domes/64019>

SF Chronicle, Aug 19 2020, If COVID-19 isn't driving a dramatic increase in homeless deaths in SF, then what is?

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/If-COVID-19-isn-t-driving-a-dramatic-increase-15493665.php>