



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 March 17, 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>

Stay Home Order

On March 16th, Mayor London Breed announced that the Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco has issued a Public Health Order requiring that residents remain in place, with the only exception being for essentials needs. This measure is necessary to slow the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The Order is effective as of midnight on Tuesday, March 17th and is effective until April 7th, 2020, or until it is extended.

The Order directs all residents to remain at their place of residence, except to conduct Essential Activities, Essential Businesses, and Essential Government Functions. When conducting an allowed activity, people must maintain at least 6 feet of social distancing from everyone other than household members.

All travel, including but not limited to walking, biking, driving, or taking public transit is prohibited, except to perform Essential Activities, operate Essential Businesses, or to maintain Essential Government Functions. Individuals may go on a walk, get exercise, or take a pet outside to go to the bathroom, as long as at least six feet of social distancing is maintained. People riding on public transit must maintain at least six feet of social distancing from other passengers.

Homeless individuals are not subject to the shelter in place order but are encouraged to seek shelter, and the City will be working with the State, following up on the Governor's announcement yesterday, to maximize available resources for the homeless population.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) urges people not to rush to urgent care or emergency rooms for COVID-19 testing or non-emergency needs. Do not overwhelm the health system or the emergency response system at this time. We need it to care for those who are seriously ill. If you are otherwise sick or concerned you may have coronavirus, contact your health care provider.

In an effort to reduce spread of the virus in the community, the City took swift action upon the confirmation of the first COVID-19 cases among San Francisco residents on March 5th. These cases provided proof of what we already anticipated, that the virus is here in community.



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Available now on DPH's website is a COVID-19 case tracker that will be updated daily. Given the patterns in our state, region and our own city, we expect to see an increasing number of COVID-19 cases in San Francisco. The addition of more testing at our own public health lab and at commercial labs in the city will undoubtedly produce more positive results in the days to come.

The situation continues to change rapidly. Below is a list of comprehensive efforts the Department of Public Health and the City took to prevent infection in the most vulnerable populations, protect healthcare workers from infection, and mitigate community transmission.

- On March 6th, Mayor London Breed announced aggressive recommendations to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The recommendations for social distancing have a goal of reducing the occasions when large numbers of people come together and potentially are exposed to the virus that is circulating in our community. The recommendations protect the health of vulnerable populations, and ensure that essential public services, such as schools and transportation, are taking steps to protect the public. These are systemic as well as individual changes that will make a difference in people's lives. Although the recommendations will cause inconvenience, they are necessary and worthwhile to reduce the spread of the virus and interrupt its transmission from person to person. DPH will continuously assess the recommendations' impact to determine if they need to be adjusted.
- On March 7th, the Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco issued a Public Health Order gatherings at City-owned.
- On March 9th, Mayor Breed, Supervisor Aaron Peskin, DPH announced \$5 million in new investments, as well as a Public Health Order to protect vulnerable populations who are at risk of becoming ill or dying if they contract COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus. This emergency fund and Order will focus on reducing risk of exposure to the virus for the many marginally housed seniors, people with underlying health conditions, and individuals experiencing homelessness, living in shelters, single-room occupancy hotels (SROs), and Permanent Supportive Housing.
- On March 10th, Mayor Breed and DPH announced to strengthen the City's response to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by providing quarantine locations for individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 and do not need to be hospitalized, as well as individuals who have been exposed to the virus and do not have access to adequate shelter due to homelessness or shared living arrangements. Shared-living situations include SROs, shelters, and Permanent Supportive Housing. Temporary isolation housing will include recreational vehicles (RVs), which have been leased and will be staged in the Presidio. The RVs will be placed in various secure locations throughout the city as needed. The City is also in the process of identifying additional locations for auxiliary quarantine housing, including unoccupied residential property. As the City continues to work to secure additional locations,



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City leaders are asking local hotels to join in identifying vacant hotel rooms for this purpose so that San Francisco can be better prepared to care for all of its residents.

- On March 11th, Mayor Breed announced that the Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco will issue a Public Health Order prohibiting all large group events of 1,000 or more persons. This measure is necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the community and builds on the City's March 6th public health recommendations. The Health Order was effective March 11th.
- On March 12th, Mayor Breed today announced that the Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco has issued a Public Health Order prohibiting non-essential visitors from entering long-term care facilities within San Francisco city limits. This measure is necessary to slow the spread of novel coronavirus in the community. It builds on the City's public health recommendations and a prior Public Health Order issued on March 7th regarding City-owned and operated long-term care facilities at Laguna Honda and Zuckerberg San Francisco General hospitals.
- On March 13th, Mayor Breed announced that beginning Monday, March 16 the Recreation and Park Department and the San Francisco Public Library will begin to operate libraries and indoor recreation facilities as emergency care facilities for children of parents on the front lines of the COVID-19 outbreak and low-income families. Both agencies will suspend regular indoor programming effective Friday, March 13 at 6 p.m. The decision comes in the wake of public school closures and other safety measures the City is undertaking to respond to the spread of COVID-19. Parents on the front line include San Francisco-based hospital staff, Department of Public Health employees, and activated Disaster Service Workers.
- On March 13th, Mayor Breed announced that the Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco has issued a Public Health Order prohibiting all non-essential events of 100 or more persons. The Order applies to events with 100 people or more but does not apply to: essential government services, transit, office space, hotels, residential buildings, grocery stores, shopping malls, retail establishments, hospitals, medical facilities, community serving organizations like food banks, and other facilities as detailed in the Order. To allow for appropriate social distancing, restaurants that have a capacity of between 100 and 500 people are allowed to continue operating as long as they reduce their occupancy in half up to a maximum of 100 patrons. For example, a restaurant that has an occupancy of 150 is allowed to operate if it reduces its occupancy in half to 75.
 - On March 12th, the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the California Department of Public Health announced that large gatherings of 250 people or more should be postponed or cancelled, and that gatherings of individuals who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 should be limited to no more than 10 people.



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- On March 14th, Mayor Breed announced San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) will no longer shut off water or power for delinquent payments, and that both the SFPUC and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) will no longer add penalties on to delinquent payments during the City's Local Emergency response to COVID-19.
- On March 16th, Mayor Breed announced the "Workers and Families First Program," which will provide paid sick leave for private sector workers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The measures above are necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the community support public health. This is a very fluid situation and recommendations and guidance may change as the situation changes.

Public Health Orders and recommendations from DPH can be found at sfdph.org/dph/alerts/coronavirus.asp. Mayoral Declarations regarding COVID-19 can be found at sfmayor.org/mayoral-declarations-regarding-covid-19. You can also call 311 and sign up for the City's alert service for official updates: text **COVID19SF** to **888-777**.

Remember, these are the best ways for all San Franciscans to reduce their risk of getting sick, and preventing COVID-19:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your cough or sneeze.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Try alternatives to shaking hands, like a wave.
- If you have recently returned from a country, state or region with ongoing COVID-19 infections, monitor your health and follow the instructions of public health officials.
- There is no recommendation to wear masks at this time to prevent yourself from getting sick.

You can also prepare for the possible disruption caused by an outbreak:

- Prepare to work from home if that is possible for your job, and your employer.
- Make sure you have a supply of all essential medications for your family.
- Prepare a child care plan if you or a caregiver are sick.
- Make arrangements about how your family will manage a school closure.
- Plan for how you can care for a sick family member without getting sick yourself.
- Take care of each other and check in by phone with friends, family and neighbors that are vulnerable to serious illness or death if they get COVID-19.



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- Keep common spaces clean to help maintain a healthy environment for you and others. Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned regularly with disinfecting sprays, wipes or common household cleaning products.

Search for First Drug Sobering Center Location Continues

Community outreach work continues in the Tenderloin, where DPH and HealthRIGHT 360 are proposing to locate San Francisco's first drug sobering center. We believe this pilot program, primarily serving people experiencing homelessness and methamphetamine intoxication, represents a step toward improving the health and safety of Tenderloin residents. We also recognize that the model will be improved through community input. The methods for gathering that input are being re-evaluated in light of COVID-19 and our concern for vulnerable populations. A second large community meeting had to be canceled, but community leaders and the project team are engaged in ongoing dialogue.

Mental Health Services Act Update

The San Francisco's Mental Health Services Act (SF-MHSA) team participated in a thorough State Review conducted by the California Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) in February, their first triennial audit.

SF-MHSA submitted over 500 documents and toured nine different MHSA sites, allowing the State to interview staff and participants about best practices and areas of opportunity. DHCS representatives were most impressed with our Community Planning Process, including 23 community engagement meetings in FY18/19, and with the successful integration of 352 MHSA-funded peer specialists in the behavioral health system. They noted that "San Francisco MHSA is a model County Program."

Under the leadership of MHSA Director Jessica Brown, we will correct the 10 administrative issues DHCS identified in this first State Review. We thank all those who contributed to such a successful audit.

DPH in the News

AP, Holed up in the US: Coronavirus shutdown threatens jobs

<https://www.eldoradonews.com/news/2020/mar/17/holed-us-coronavirus-shutdown-threatens-jobs/>

AP, San Francisco Bay Area counties issue shelter-in-place order

<https://www.wane.com/news/national-world/san-francisco-bay-area-counties-issue-shelter-in-place-order/>

LA Times, As coronavirus spreads, 6 San Francisco Bay Area counties ordered to shelter in place

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/national/article241249691.html>



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WA Examiner, 'History will not forgive us for waiting': San Francisco Bay Area issues shelter-in-place order over coronavirus

<https://dnyuz.com/2020/03/16/history-will-not-forgive-us-for-waiting-san-francisco-bay-area-issues-shelter-in-place-order-over-coronavirus/>

Times Herald, <https://www.timesheraldonline.com/2020/03/16/coronavirus-six-bay-area-counties-to-shelter-in-place/>

<https://www.timesheraldonline.com/2020/03/16/coronavirus-six-bay-area-counties-to-shelter-in-place/>

SF Gate, What you need to know about Bay Area shelter in place orders due to coronavirus

<https://m.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/need-to-know-Bay-Area-shelter-in-place-coronavirus-15135381.php>

Hoodline, Shelter-in-place order for 6 Bay Area counties goes into affect 12:01 a.m. Tuesday

<https://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Shelter-in-place-order-for-6-Bay-Area-counties-15135749.php>

Fox, Much of San Francisco Bay Area under 'shelter-in-place' order due to coronavirus

<https://www.foxnews.com/us/san-francisco-bay-area-shelter-in-place-coronavirus>

AP, Virus concerns hit California casinos, entertainment venues

https://www.havasunews.com/nation/virus-concerns-hit-california-casinos-entertainment-venues/article_b1ef616a-f04f-5b20-81d4-cd5eaba95a6e.html

AP, LA, California see more coronavirus cases on Saturday

https://www.gazettextra.com/news/nation_world/la-california-see-more-coronavirus-cases-on-saturday/article_dc86da52-79a8-5f6a-8a27-a0ade2b566d8.html

SF Chronicle, Efforts intensify to slow spread of coronavirus, SF bans gatherings of more than 100

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Efforts-intensify-to-slow-spread-of-coronavirus-15129637.php>

U.S. News & World Report, San Francisco prohibits non-essential events over 100 people

<https://www.usnews.com/news/top-news/articles/2020-03-13/san-francisco-prohibits-non-essential-events-over-100-people>

Market Insider, San Francisco bans gatherings of 100 or more people - smaller than a sold-out movie theater - to slow the spread of the coronavirus

<https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/san-francisco-ban-gatherings-hundred-slow-coronavirus-2020-3-1028995790>



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CBS, Coronavirus Update: San Francisco Bans All Non-Essential Gatherings Of 100+
<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2020/03/13/coronavirus-update-san-francisco-bans-all-non-essential-gatherings-of-100/>

SF Examiner, Libraries and rec centers to provide childcare during school closures
<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/libraries-and-rec-centers-to-provide-childcare-during-school-closures/>

Kron, SF bans events with 100+ people over coronavirus concerns
<https://www.kron4.com/news/bay-area/san-francisco-bans-events-with-100-people-over-coronavirus-concerns/>

SF Examiner, Coronavirus concerns prompt SF to ban 'non-essential' gatherings of 100 or more
<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/coronavirus-concerns-prompts-sf-to-ban-non-essential-gatherings-of-100-or-more/>

Hoodline, City announces \$5M spending, public health orders to reduce risk of COVID-19 among homeless people
<https://www.sfgate.com/news/article/City-announces-5M-spending-public-health-orders-15127695.php>

BCN, New Health Order Bans Non-Essential Visits At Residential Care Facilities
<https://www.sfgate.com/news/bayarea/article/New-Health-Order-Bans-Non-Essential-Visits-At-15127389.php>

Hoodline, City deploys hand washing stations in response to COVID-19
<https://www.sfgate.com/news/article/City-deploys-hand-washing-stations-in-response-to-15126822.php>

SF Examiner, In SF, coronavirus cases increase to 18
<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/in-sf-coronavirus-cases-increase-to-18/>

SF Bay Times, San Francisco Provides Temporary Housing for Those Needing to Quarantine
<http://sfbaytimes.com/san-francisco-provides-temporary-housing-needing-quarantine/>

NBC, Coronavirus: San Francisco bans all mass gatherings over 1,000 people
<https://www.nbcsports.com/bayarea/warriors/coronavirus-san-francisco-bans-all-mass-gatherings-over-1000-people>

KPIX, SF Lawmaker Pushes For Stronger Restrictions On Large Gatherings Amid COVID-19 Concerns



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<https://datebook.sfchronicle.com/music/as-coronavirus-cancellations-ramp-up-organizations-scramble>

KLAW, How Coronavirus Is Affecting The Bay Area

<https://www.kalw.org/post/how-coronavirus-affecting-bay-area#stream/0>

SF Chronicle, 'I'm scared': Homeless people and health workers brace for coronavirus to hit encampments

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/I-m-scared-Homeless-people-and-health-15115597.php>

CBS, San Francisco Puts \$5M Toward Coronavirus Fund For Homeless, Other Vulnerable Groups

<https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2020/03/09/coronavirus-san-francisco-homeless-protections-fund-vulnerable-groups-mayor-london-breed-covid19/>

SF Chronicle, Coronavirus order in SF: All large gatherings banned in city-owned buildings

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Coronavirus-order-in-SF-All-large-gatherings-15114336.php>

Kron, San Francisco city leader take drastic steps to fight spread of coronavirus

<https://www.kron4.com/news/bay-area/san-francisco-city-leader-take-drastic-steps-to-fight-spread-of-coronavirus/>

BAR, 2 coronavirus cases reported in SF; state declares emergency

https://www.ebar.com/news/latest_news/289065/online_extra:_2_coronavirus_cases_reported_in_sf:_state_declares_emergency

LA Times, Coronavirus spreads across California as officials fight to contain disease and fears

<https://www.bradenton.com/news/nation-world/national/article240983021.html>

KGO, 1st cases of COVID-19 confirmed in 2 San Francisco patients, officials say

<https://news.yahoo.com/1st-cases-covid-19-confirmed-201428730.html>

KQED, First Two San Francisco Cases of Coronavirus Detected

<https://www.kqed.org/science/1958136/first-two-san-francisco-cases-of-the-coronavirus-detected>

SF Chronicle, SF General nurses, doctors argue hospital's understaffing will hurt efforts to handle coronavirus outbreak

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/local-politics/article/SF-General-nurses-doctors-argue-hospital-s-15109177.php>

ABC, Coronavirus Outbreak: Everything to know about the Grand Princess cruise ship docking in Oakland

<https://abc30.com/health/coronavirus-everything-to-know-about-the-grand-princess-cruise-ship-in-bay-area/5988195/>