



## 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 May 4, 2021**

*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>

*Today, there are over 36,200 San Francisco residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19. And, sadly, a total of 537 San Franciscans have died. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) sends our condolences to their loved ones.*

#### **Population Health Leadership Transitions**

Dr. Susan Philip is currently the Acting Director of Population Health Division for the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH). She has been part of the City's COVID-19 response since the SFDPH Department Operations Center was first activated on January 21, 2020 and has been serving in the role of Acting Health Officer of San Francisco since December 2020. Previously, she was a Deputy Health Officer and the Director of the Disease Control and Prevention for SFDPH, overseeing population level clinical, biomedical, disease intervention efforts to reduce communicable and chronic diseases in San Francisco. She has worked for SFDPH since 2005. She is also currently an Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of California, San Francisco and has been an HIV primary care provider at San Francisco City Clinic.

Additionally, Dr. Rita Nguyen is currently the Acting Deputy Director of the Population Health Division at SFDPH. In this role, she will support the oversight of population level chronic diseases, risk factors, and outcomes. In the past year, Dr. Nguyen served as the Director of Information and Guidance for the City's COVID Command Center, leading the City safely through the pandemic with COVID-19 guidance and research. Prior to the COVID-19 response, Dr. Nguyen led chronic disease prevention efforts including supporting community-based initiatives, working collaboratively with health systems to advance population health, and informing efforts that promote policy, systems, and environmental changes that support health. Dr. Nguyen is a practicing hospitalist at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and an Assistant Clinical Professor at UCSF.

Together, Drs. Philip and Nguyen will focus on prevention strategies for specific populations and settings, facilitate the development and use of innovative public health programs and data analytics, undertake prevention research, and advance evidence-based practices, leading the way to a healthier San Francisco.



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### **Department of Public Health announces new Chief Financial Officer**

SFDPH is pleased to announce the appointment of Jenny Louie as Chief Financial Officer. Her immediate priorities will include: supporting the transition and next phase of the COVID-19 response and recovery; funding and implementation of Mental Health SF; implementation of the State CalAIM program; advancing the department's racial equity work; and continuing to integrate the Lean principles of continuous improvement and standard work in the Finance Division to support DPH's operations and true north goals of financial stewardship.

Ms. Louie has been with the Department of Public Health for over fourteen years, serving as the Budget Director and most recently as Deputy Finance Officer. In addition to being responsible for the development of SFDPH's annual budget, she has supported the development and implementation of major strategic initiatives for the department including the transition of Laguna Honda and Zuckerberg San Francisco General to new facilities, Medi-Cal Waivers including the Whole Person Care Pilot, the transition to the Affordable Care Act, the Epic integrated electronic health record system, Mental Health San Francisco, and the COVID-19 response. Prior to joining DPH, Ms. Louie was a Fiscal and Policy Analyst under then Mayor Gavin Newsom, managing a portfolio of department budgets including DPH, City Administrator, and Department of Technology. In addition to her finance work, she also served as the Program Manager for the Cultural Equity Grants Program at the San Francisco Arts Commission and as an Account Executive at The Hoffman Group, a Washington, DC based public affairs firm. Ms. Louie holds a BA in Economics and Government from Smith College and a Master of Public Policy from UC Berkeley.

### **San Francisco Department of Public Health adopts new public health guidelines on masking outdoors**

On May 3, Acting Health Officer Dr. Susan Philip released the following statement after a [decision by the state](#) to generally align with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) new [guidance](#) on masking for fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people. For the purposes of this guidance, people are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 two weeks after they have received the second dose in a two-dose series of Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after they have received a single-dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Currently, individuals 16 and older are eligible to get vaccinated in San Francisco.

“The CDC’s announcement that fully vaccinated, and in some instances unvaccinated, people no longer need to wear masks in certain outdoor settings is fantastic news that reflects the science and data we now have on the efficacy of the vaccines in preventing community spread and driving down case rates and the minimal risk of transmission outdoors. We welcome the state’s decision to adopt these common-sense guidelines and we hope it further incentivizes people to get vaccinated as soon as possible. We are going to be updating our health orders and various directives to reflect these changes. That will likely take several days. However, our local face covering order will be updated sooner.”

“These changes mean fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people can forgo mask-wearing



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while engaging in outdoor activities such as walking, running, hiking or biking alone or with members of the same household. And, you will no longer need to pull up your mask when simply passing others by on a sidewalk or trail as the transient passing of people is not a risk of transmission. For anyone who is fully vaccinated, a face covering will no longer be required outdoors unless a more specific rule requires it, such as at a large sporting event. For people who are not fully vaccinated, a face covering must be worn if physical distancing cannot be maintained. For example, if you are not fully vaccinated and stop to have a prolonged conversation, or you are walking on a crowded sidewalk passing many people, you will want to put that mask on. And for now, everyone, including fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people, must still wear a face covering at large events or crowded settings outdoors. In San Francisco, this means any event or location with 300 or more people.”

“Because their risk level is significantly lower, vaccinated people now have more latitude and do not need to wear a mask for most outdoor activities other than those that are crowded. After we reach the state’s yellow tier, fully vaccinated people can also dine outdoors at a restaurant with friends from multiple households without masks. We anticipate that will begin on May 6 along with some other industry-specific changes. As before, fully vaccinated people do not need to wear a mask while attending small private gatherings indoors with fully vaccinated family and friends or with one unvaccinated household that is low risk for COVID-19.”

“We all still need to keep our masks handy as they should be worn outside if you are unvaccinated and cannot easily maintain 6-foot distance; in settings where other rules still require masking outdoors; as soon as you go inside to most business settings; or in large group settings such as outdoor music festivals or sporting events, including in fully vaccinated sections. When it comes to unvaccinated youth over the age of two, they should keep their masks on while interacting with other youth from different households in outdoor settings such as the park or at school recess.”

“While you may be able to walk to a destination without one, you’ll need to put your mask on when you enter an indoor public space such as a store, restaurant, gym, salon, or movie theater—any place where the vaccination status of other people is unknown. The federal masking requirements for public transportation will still apply, so you will need to wear your mask while waiting for and while riding public transit. We also urge vaccinated residents to wear masks when visiting indoors with unvaccinated people who are at [increased risk for severe COVID-19](#) or unvaccinated people from multiple households. Remember, choosing outdoor over indoor gatherings and activities is your safest bet.”

“We hope this news offers further incentive for people to get fully vaccinated as soon as possible. The longer you wait, including deferring your second shot if you need one, the greater the risk of contracting COVID-19 and passing it on to a friend, loved one or co-worker. Vaccines are generally available to anyone age 16 and older. Our continued success and our City’s economic health depend on everyone who is eligible getting vaccinated. San



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Francisco has done an amazing job throughout this pandemic because of everyone's commitment to following the health guidelines. Let's keep up the good work so we can continue to reopen our City and resuming the activities we love."

The [Face Covering Order](#) will be updated soon. Other items, including that Stay-Safer-At-Home Order and many directives, will be updated when the City is assigned to the yellow tier by the State in order to clarify additional situations where a mask does not need to be worn when outdoors. Visit [SF.gov/masks](http://SF.gov/masks).

### [CDPH Updated Guidance on Masking](#)

#### **San Francisco expands access to vaccines in hard hit Lakeview & OMI neighborhoods**

On April 28, District 11 Supervisor Ahsha Safaï and Director of Health Dr. Grant Colfax joined community partners Southwest Community Corporation/I.T. Bookman Community Center and Visit Healthcare to officially launch a new neighborhood COVID-19 vaccine site at 50 Broad Street in the Ocean View neighborhood. The new location, which will serve Lakeview and OMI residents 18 years and older is the sixth neighborhood vaccination site established as part of San Francisco's efforts to ensure highly impacted neighborhoods have equitable access to the vaccine. San Francisco's OMI neighborhoods include Ingleside, Ingleside Terraces, Merced Heights, and Ocean View.

The 50 Broad Street site for OMI and Lakeview residents aged 18 and older will be open on Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Fridays, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.; and Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. This site will serve residents by appointment and drop-in and will be operated in collaboration with the Southwest Community Corporation/I.T. Bookman Community Center and Visit Healthcare. Community members can schedule appointments by contacting the OMI COVID-19 Hotline at (415) 712 - 0313 or they can email [Covid19@itbookmancenter.org](mailto:Covid19@itbookmancenter.org) with questions.

The new Ocean View site is located near the MUNI 24 and M bus lines, ensuring that it is accessible and convenient for the people it serves. Muni and Paratransit are free for anyone traveling to and from COVID-19 vaccine appointments. The SFMTA is also providing additional access to taxi service for those using the Essential Trip Card. Information can be found at [sfmta.com/COVID](http://sfmta.com/COVID) and [sfmta.com/Paratransit](http://sfmta.com/Paratransit).

#### **Health Department continues mobile COVID vaccination efforts with residential treatment program clients**

On April 15, SFDPH's Behavioral Health Services (BHS) and Whole Person Integrated Care (WPIC) came together for a mobile vaccination event at Progress Foundation's Clay Street Residential Treatment Program. With the support and expertise of the WPIC mobile vaccination team, 53 residents received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.



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The collaboration came about when Devora Keller, Medical Director of Medical Respite and Sobering Center and Supportive Housing Nursing Programs and the WPIC vaccine lead, offered BHS operational and logistical support and staffing to help vaccinate a group of Progress Foundation residents who were unable to get vaccinations on their own due to severely impairing behavioral health needs. The vaccination team consisted of staff and volunteers from WPIC and BHS as well as traveling nurses from around the country and retired SFDPH and BHS providers. The SFDPH will continue supporting efforts and partnering with community to ensure vaccination access for populations with higher risks.

### **San Francisco opens reflection rooms at high volume vaccination sites for Ramadan**

On April 26, SFDPH and the Department of Emergency Management announced new reflection rooms at San Francisco's high-volume COVID-19 vaccination sites during Ramadan. Created in collaboration with District 6 Supervisor Matt Haney and Human Rights Commissioner and Interfaith Council Board Member Hala Hijazi, the initiative helps support equitable vaccine access for Muslims during the month-long religious celebration and beyond.

Ramadan, observed between April 12 and May 12, is considered one of the holiest months of the year for Muslims. In addition to including a safe space for reflection, the SF Market in the Bayview and Moscone Center vaccination sites have a system in place to allow individuals who step aside to pray to keep their place in line as well as a designated area in which they can break their fast with access to drinking water. Muslims pray five times a day and fast between dawn and sunset during Ramadan. Open to all faiths, the reflection rooms offer privacy from public view, are outfitted with prayer rugs and are large enough to accommodate social distancing.

San Francisco, which is home to approximately 7,000 Muslims, modeled its guidelines and best practices to allow Muslims to access vaccines during Ramadan from a program of the New York City Commission on Human Rights. The initiative's literature, which suggests offering service during hours when people will not be fasting, is being disseminated at the vaccination sites in English and Arabic.

### **Health Department launches 'Have GOOD Sex' campaign**

In April, SFDPH launched a new social media campaign: Have GOOD Sex. The goal of the campaign is to address the stigma associated with sex and sexuality and create a place for conversations on sexual health and pleasure. Everyone deserves sexual health without stigmatization. Have GOOD Sex will also jumpstart conversations about consent and empowerment, because good sex isn't just safer sex. Good sex is inclusive—it's devoid of shame and it's for everyone.

With a focus on Black and Latinx San Franciscans ages 18-49, and promoted by local influencers, Have GOOD Sex will combine social media with social influencers to move with culture and be a



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part of the conversation. Have GOOD Sex will also promote the recently launched [TakeMeHome](#) project, which provides San Franciscans with access to free HIV and STD screening in the privacy of their own home. For more information on sexual health and to learn more about SFPDH's clinic-based sexual health services, visit SF City Clinic at <https://www.sfcityclinic.org/providers/guidelines>.

### DPH in the News

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<https://www.thesfnews.com/sfpdh-sfдем-announce-prayer-rooms-at-vaccination-sites/76670>

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<https://sfist.com/2021/04/27/san-francisco-likely-has-just-one-more-week-in-orange-tier/>

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