

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 18, 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 36,440 San Francisco residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19. And, sadly, a total of 540 San Franciscans have died. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) sends our condolences to their loved ones.

Federal Update:

CDC updates masking guidance for fully vaccinated people

On May 13, the Centers for Disease Control announced that fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear masks in certain indoor settings. While this is great news and further underscores the efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccine in driving down cases and preventing community spread, San Francisco will wait for California state to adopt the updated guidelines before making changes to the local health order, as we recently did with the new guidance on outdoor masking for fully vaccinated people.

We know people are eager to shed their masks and the quickest way we can arrive at a place where it is safe to do so, is for every eligible person to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Appointments are widely available throughout the City. The longer you wait to get vaccinated, the greater the risk of contracting and becoming severely ill from COVID-19 or spreading it to a friend, loved one or coworker. If we all get vaccinated, we can continue to reopen our city and look forward to a great summer.

Local Update:

San Francisco appoints Dr. Susan Philip as Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco

On May 4, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved Dr. Susan Philip's appointment as Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco. The Health Officer is a key position at our Public Health Department and required by California law. The role is vested with the authority to issue health orders, declare local health emergencies and also functions as the local registrar of births and deaths.

Dr. Philip stepped into the Acting Health Officer position in December 2020 when Dr. Aragón left to become the state Health Officer. Since that time, she has led large portions of the City's COVID-19 response including steering our citywide reopening strategies with a diverse group of internal and external stakeholders and partnering with the City Attorney's office to draft dozens of Health Orders. She also serves as the City's representative to the Bay Area Health Officers group and to the California Department of Public Health. Fortunately, she was able to seamlessly move into the



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Health Officer role during this pandemic because she has been an integral part of many aspects of the City's COVID-19 response since our DPH Department Operations Center was first activated on January 21, 2020.

Dr. Philip has a deep history with DPH having joined the department 2005. Previously, she served as Deputy Health Officer and the Director of the Disease Prevention and Control Branch, overseeing population level clinical, biomedical, and disease intervention efforts to reduce communicable and chronic diseases in San Francisco. She is also currently the Acting Director of the DPH Population Health Division.

Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases, Dr. Philip is 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. As Health Officer, Dr. Philip will continue to be a leader in the City's response to this once-in-a generation pandemic while advancing health equity throughout San Francisco. She is a clear and effective communicator and deeply committed to the mission of DPH. Dr. Philip has done an extraordinary job during this difficult period. She is a visionary leader and tremendous colleague.

Naming of new Department of Health facility in honor of Maria X. Martinez

The San Francisco Department of Public Health will propose that the new Health Resource Center located at 1064 Mission Street be named in honor of Maria X. Martinez. Ms. Martinez played a pivotal role in improving the lives and health of people experiencing homelessness and other San Franciscans with complex health needs throughout her 23 years of service at DPH. The proposed name is the Maria X. Martinez Health Resource Center.

Maria X. Martinez, who died after a short illness on July 15, 2020, was DPH's Director of Whole Person Integrated Care and one of the key leaders who cultivated the idea of creating a health resource center co-located with new supportive housing at the brand-new building at 1064 Mission Street. A tireless advocate and public servant, Maria devoted her career to developing programs and improving care for people experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable populations.

The Health Resource Center was envisioned as a clinical hub for Whole Person Integrated Care, where co-located cross-departmental teams would work side-by-side to create low barrier access for people experiencing homelessness seeking health care, assistance with enrollment in benefits, and help exploring housing options. Through an iterative design process involving staff from DPH, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing and Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development and working with members of the community, the team developed plans for a state-of-the-art resource center. The plan is for the Maria X. Martinez Health Resource Center will open in Spring 2022.



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People 12 and older are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in San Francisco

On April 13, San Francisco expanded eligibility to people 16 and older. More than 75% of people who are eligible in San Francisco have received at least one dose of the vaccine and the City is currently vaccinating roughly 8,500 residents per day. On May 10, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized the emergency use of the Pfizer vaccine for people between the ages of 12 and 15. Following the additional review by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup, which concluded on May 12, the City began administering the vaccine to this age group on Thursday, May 13. Pfizer is the only vaccine approved for individuals younger than 18.

There are approximately 25,000 children ages 12 to 15 in San Francisco. The City has developed a robust distribution infrastructure that includes high-volume vaccination sites, neighborhood sites, community clinics, pharmacies, and mobile vaccination teams to make receiving the vaccine as convenient, comfortable and low-barrier for as many people as possible, particularly in those neighborhoods disproportionately affected by the pandemic. With this eligibility expansion, SFDPH/COVID Command is collaborating with San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to bring vaccines to select school sites located in communities that have been hard hit by COVID-19. Those newly eligible and their families should visit SF.gov/getvaccinated to learn about options for receiving the vaccine and to find links to schedule appointments at different vaccination sites administering the Pfizer vaccine.

Generally, parent or legal guardian consent is required for COVID-19 vaccinations of minors, unless they meet the criteria for emancipation or self-sufficiency as defined by the state. In anticipation of the FDA emergency use authorization to administer Pfizer to the newly eligible group, DPH issued a new emergency health order, <u>C19-19</u>, that enables minors 12 and older to consent to receive FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccines.

In addition to the new health order, DPH and the COVID Command Center have been making operational plans to accommodate new demand for vaccines and conferred with school, faith, and community leaders on strategies to promote vaccine access. This effort included planning sessions with officials at DPH's Population Health Division, San Francisco Health Network, SFUSD, as well as the City's Department of Children, Youth and Their Families (DCYF). The vaccination strategy for people ages 12-15 includes administering the Pfizer vaccine throughout San Francisco's various vaccination sites, including the high-volume sites as well as select neighborhood sites that are equipped to administer the Pfizer vaccine. It also calls for establishing family vaccination events, access to informational materials and to doctors at certain sites to answer questions about the vaccine as well as direct referrals through trusted community partners and the City's Community Hubs.

Drop-in sites with the Pfizer vaccine serving residents living in the following priority zip codes: Bayview (94124), Visitacion Valley (94134), Excelsior/Outer Mission (94112), Mission/Bernal (94110), Potrero/Dogpatch (94107), Tenderloin (94102), SOMA/Civic Center (94103), Western Addition (94115) and Treasure Island (94130):



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- **Bayview: Southeast Health Center,** 2401 Keith St., 7 days a week, 9am 4pm; For residents in all priority zip codes
- Mission: 24th and Capp, Sunday-Wednesday, 9am 4pm; Priority given to Mission residents
- Mission: 18th and Shotwell, 3271 18th St., Thursday-Saturday, 11am 6pm; Priority given to Mission residents
- Mission/Potrero: Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, 1001 Potrero Ave., Monday-Saturday, 8am 4pm; For residents in all priority zip codes
- Starting May 15 Sunnydale: 2055 Sunnydale, Saturday, 9:30am 3pm; Live, work or receive services in 94112, 94124, 94134
- Starting May 18 Tenderloin: Larkin Street Youth Service, 134 Golden Gate Ave., Tuesday 9:30-3:30pm; Live, work or receive services in 94102, 94103
- Starting May 19 OMI: 50 Broad St., Wednesday and Friday 9am 6 pm, and Saturday 9am 3pm; Live, work or receive services in 94112, 94127 and 94132

Drop-in hours at sites serving all eligible residents. If individuals wish to make an appointment instead, visit the website listed above.

- City College UCSF, 55 Frida Kahlo Way. Drive-thru drop-ins today, 5/13
- **SF Market**, 901 Rankin Street, Monday-Friday, 9am 4pm
- University of San Francisco (Operated by Kaiser Permanente), 2975 Turk Blvd, Monday-Friday, 10am 12pm and 1pm 4pm

Muni and Paratransit are free for anyone traveling to and from COVID-19 vaccine appointments. The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency is also providing additional access to taxi service for those using the Essential Trip Card. Information can be found at sfmta.com/COVID and sfmta.com/COVID and sfmta.com/COVID and sfmta.com/COVID and sfmta.com/COVID and sfmta.com/paratransit.

Individuals who are 65 and older, with disabilities and who are unable to easily access the internet or schedule an appointment through their provider, may call (628) 652-2700 to learn about vaccine options and receive assistance in booking anappointment to some locations.

San Francisco hosts COVID-19 Pediatric Town Hall after FDA emergency use authorization of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for youth ages 12 to 15 was approved

On May 12, San Francisco's Health Officer Dr. Susan Philip; Dr. Lillian Brown, Assistant Professor of Medicine at UCSF - HIV, Infectious Diseases; and Global Medicine and Dr. Lee Atkinson-McEvoy – UCSF Division Chair of Pediatrics hosted a COVID-19 Pediatric Town Hall to address questions from the public. DPH, in partnership with DCYF, SFUSD, our Population Health Division, San Francisco Health Network and COVID Command, as well as other organizations that serve youth and families, hosted the townhall to inform the public about where to access the Pfizer vaccine and help families that had questions about vaccinating



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their children. The meeting is archived on SFGovTV's YouTube channel: https://youtu.be/y7_0B3sUSN8. The City will continue to provide regular updates to the public about the vaccine at SF.gov/covidvaccine.

San Francisco reopens and expands businesses and activities as it moves into the State's yellow tier

On May 4, Mayor London N. Breed and Director of Health Dr. Grant Colfax announced that, starting Thursday, May 6, San Francisco can reopen and expand additional activities that are allowed by the State for counties with minimal COVID-19 transmission levels. With this move into the final tier on the State's <u>Blueprint for a Safer Economy</u>, San Francisco will open its few remaining closed sectors and expand several others. With some exceptions, San Francisco's reopening will align with what is permitted by the State.

As of May 4, San Francisco has met the State's criteria to advance to the least restrictive yellow tier based on its COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and other health metrics. San Francisco's new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have maintained a consistently low level since early March 2021. They began to decline again in late April, allowing the City to meet the criteria for the yellow tier.

The rate of new cases and the very small number of hospitalizations is a direct result of San Francisco's vaccination efforts.

Despite San Francisco's declining case rate and hospitalizations and its robust vaccination efforts, public health officials continue to monitor the alarming trends in rising case rates, variants, and low vaccination rates in other parts of the country and the world as potential indicators of risks that could lay ahead. Beyond widespread vaccination, continued adherence to public health mitigation measures such as wearing masks indoors and in settings where the vaccination status of other people is unknown, washing hands, and physical distancing will limit the impact of variants, particularly as more indoor activities continue to open and expand.

Reflecting the success of the City's collective efforts to limit the presence of COVID-19 within the community, San Francisco is approaching its move into the yellow tier in as close alignment with the State as possible. It will maximize as many of the activities under the yellow tier as it can in order to ensure a smooth progression of reopening and continue to advance the economic health of the businesses operating in the City and their employees. While the City is updating its health order to come into near alignment with the State reopening guidelines, it continues to limit some activities, particularly indoor activities and activities that involve large crowds, in order to minimize the risk to public health.

DPH issued <u>final health and safety guidelines</u> to reopen activities allowed under the yellow tier of the State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy, with some additional local restrictions, effective as of



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8:00am Thursday, May 6, 2021. The City posted the revised Health Order with detailed requirements to its <u>webpage</u>.

San Francisco health officials continue to emphasize the need for masking in indoor public spaces where the vaccination status of other people is unknown and in instances where social distancing cannot be easily maintained. The health order will prioritize the expansion of outdoor activities and encourage businesses to have outdoor options wherever possible. Everyone, including unvaccinated older adults and other unvaccinated people with chronic conditions or compromised immune systems and those who live with them, are urged to get vaccinated if they have not done so already.

Under the new Health Order, the following activities will be opened or expanded. Activities to Resume Thursday, May 6, 2021

The following activities may be reopened:

- <u>Indoor bars, breweries and wineries (without meals)</u>
 - o Open to 25% capacity up to 100 people.
 - Must follow indoor dining rules, including sitting at tables of up to eight people to drink.
- Indoor family entertainment
 - Unopened activities including ice and roller skating, arcades, golf and playground may open to 50% capacity.
 - o Other activities already opened such as mini-golf, pool halls, and bowling alleys may expand to 50% capacity (removing any testing or vaccination requirements).
- Saunas, steam rooms, and indoor hot tubs
 - o Open to 25% capacity.
- Buffets and self-serve food
 - Allowed for takeaway consumption.
 - o Allowed for on-site consumption following indoor dining guidelines.
- Outdoor community sporting events
 - o Up to 500 pre-registered participants per hour, and 1,500 total, can participate in outdoor events like runs, walks, marathons, and other endurance events, and up to 3,000 participants total if all show proof of vaccination or negative test.
 - o Participants must be California residents or, if from out-of-state, must be fully vaccinated.
 - o All participants must be screened for COVID-19 prior to event.
 - Spectators are allowed following outdoor gathering guidelines.
 - o Non-alcohol concessions are allowed in designated food area.
 - o Live entertainment or festival areas are not allowed at this time.
 - o Events with over 500 participants must have an approved Health and Safety plan.

The following activities may expand their operating capacity:

• Outdoor small gatherings (including social gatherings)



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- o May expand to 75 participants, even if food and beverages are consumed.
- Facial coverings may be removed as long as 6 ft of distance maintained between participants (unvaccinated people are encouraged to wear facial coverings).

Indoor small gatherings

o May expand to 50% capacity up to 50 people, with face coverings (unless everyone is fully vaccinated or there is one unvaccinated household that is low-risk).

Offices

o May expand to 50% capacity, not counting fully vaccinated personnel.

Indoor dining

- o The 3 households per table limit is lifted. Up to 8 people allowed per table.
- o The cap of 200 patrons is lifted, 50% capacity requirements remain.

Outdoor dining

o Guests may remove facial coverings once they are seated for the duration of their visit, unless they go inside for any reason.

Outdoor bars

o Guests may remove facial coverings once they are seated for the duration of their visit, unless they go inside for any reason.

Indoor Retail

- o In-store cafes or restaurants may resume following indoor dining guidelines.
- o Common areas, including in shopping malls, may reopen.

Indoor movie theaters

- o May expand capacity to up to 500 people, 50% capacity requirements remain.
- o Concessions may be available to groups of 8 eating in their seats, with no household limit.
- o Live performances with fewer than 200 patrons or that are incidental to the showing of a motion pictures, like a talk by the film director, are allowed. Other live performances follow live audience performance venue guidelines.

Outdoor gyms and fitness

• Face coverings may be removed as long as 6 ft of distance maintained between participants.

• Indoor gyms and fitness

- o May expand to 50% capacity.
- o Classes may expand to 50% capacity up to 200 people.
- o Cardio and aerobic exercise and fitness classes can occur with people 6 ft apart if one of the DPH ventilation measures is implemented.

• Outdoor arts, music and theater festivals (without assigned seating)

o May expand to up to 100 people.

Outdoor live audience seated performance venues

- o May expand to 67% capacity, subject to physical distancing requirements.
- o Sections reserved for fully vaccinated guests may be 6 ft from other sections.
- o Any events in which food and beverages are served may host fewer than 300 people without requiring proof of vaccine or negative test.



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• <u>Indoor live audience seated performance venues</u>

- o May expand to 50% capacity subject to physical distancing requirements.
- Sections reserved for fully vaccinated guests may be 6 ft from other sections.
- O Any events of up to 300 people or those that take up less than 25% of the venue capacity do not require an approved health and safety plan or proof of vaccination or negative test as long as face covering are worn at all times.
- Any events in which food and beverages are served may host fewer than 200 people without requiring proof of vaccine or negative test.

Outdoor conventions, meetings, and receptions

- o May expand to 200 people, not including fully vaccinated personnel, and up to 400 if all attendees provide proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 test.
- Face coverings may be removed as long as 6 ft of distance maintained between participants from different households.
- o If event is comprised of fully vaccinated participants (and negative test for any children 2-16), distancing is not required, though facial covering are.

• <u>Indoor conventions, meetings, and receptions</u>

- o May expand to 200 people, not including fully vaccinated personnel, with all attendees provide proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 test.
- o If event is comprised of fully vaccinated participants (and negative test for any children 2-16), distancing is not required, though masks continue to be required.

• Indoor swimming pools

May expand to 50% capacity.

Outdoor youth sports, recreation, and dance

 Fully vaccinated youth may participate in drop-in classes or a la carte fitness programs. Guest participants and "walk ons" are not allowed.

• Indoor adult and youth sports, recreation, and dance

- o Indoor ice hockey, water polo, and wrestling may resume.
- o Indoor athletic recreational facilities expanded to 50% capacity up to 200 people.
- o Participants in low contact sports are only required to maintain 6 ft of distance.
- Participants in organized and supervised swimming and diving, water polo and wrestling or marital arts programs may remove facial coverings with safety protocols including regular testing, posting a COVID-19 prevention plan, etc. in place.
- Requirements about the number of leagues or activities participants engage in are lifted (though recommendations to limit participation to two activities, and one if high contact, remain)
- Fully vaccinated youth may participate in drop-in classes or a la carte fitness programs. Guest participants and "walk ons" in youth and adult contexts are not allowed.

• Adult day programs and senior community centers

- o May expand to 50% indoor capacity up to 50 people.
- o Food and beverage is allowed following indoor dining guidance.

• Adult Education, Vocational Education, and Institutions of Higher Education

Outdoor classes may increase to 75 students.



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- The indoor lecture cap of 200 students lifted, 50% capacity requirements remain.
- o Studying in indoor communal spaces is allowed following library guidelines.
- Student housing may expand to more than one student per unit.
- Film or media production, live streaming, or broadcasting
 - o Expanded to up to 100 people outdoors in a single location with safety protocols in place and up to 300 people with proof of vaccination or negative test.
 - o Remains 50 people indoors in a single location with safety protocols in place and up to 200 people indoors with proof of vaccination or negative test..

San Francisco's reopening updates are available at SF.gov/reopening.

National Nurses Week, May 6-12

The San Francisco Department of Public Health recognizes that nurses have shown courage in the face of this pandemic, compassion to those who are most vulnerable and most in need, and excellence in the profession of nursing. Their work saved lives and healed bodies and minds and continues to do so. Therefore, in celebration of National Nurses Week (May 6-12), we wanted to express our gratitude on behalf of our patients, their families, and all of San Francisco with activities, celebrations, and recognitions.

For example, Laguna Honda Hospital hosted a lunch for nurses, gifts, games, and an award ceremony for the DAISY Awards for excellence in nursing. Laguna Honda received over 200 award submissions from staff, families, and residents, which is record participation for Laguna Honda. Laguna Honda also celebrated nurses with social media spotlight, "thank you" videos from Mayor London Breed, Dr. Grant Colfax, Supervisor Myrna Melgar, and Mary Ellen Carroll, the Executive Director of the Department of Emergency Management, and Nurses Week posters throughout campus.

DPH presents at annual National Health Care for the Homeless Conference and Policy Symposium

This year, the National Health Care for the Homeless Council presented the National Health Care for the Homeless Conference and Policy Symposium (May 10-14) with grant support from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The 2021 virtual conference and symposium embraced the theme, "EQuality = Equity + Quality in a COVID-Aware World."

The San Francisco Department of Public Health was honored to have several DPH clinicians provide presentation this year, exploring innovative approaches to homeless health care and service delivery through a COVID-19 lens. Dr. Barry Zevin and Dr. Joanna Eveland focused sharing information on the topic of low barrier buprenorphine; Dr. Deborah Borne highlighted her work on trauma informed care; Michelle Nance, Alice Moughamian, and Megan Kennel presented their efforts with managed



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alcohol in practice; and Sarah Strieff, Jason Albertson and Andrea Sanchez showcased their experiences with COVID-19 Street-based Isolation and Quarantine. Together, their presentations encouraged other clinicians, consumers, administrators, and advocates working at the intersection of health care and homelessness to continue exploring racial equity or medical respite/recuperative care, harm reduction, or trauma-informed care, and the future of homeless health care and real solutions to homelessness.

SF Bike and Roll Week 5/10-5/14

In celebration of SF Bike and Roll Week, DPH provided support to the Safe Routes to School program, SF Bike Coalition, SF Municipal Transportation Agency, and many other local community partners, to launch the Five Senses Challenge. This weeklong campaign encouraged community members, parents, adults and children, to celebrate biking and rolling using bicycles, skateboards, scooters, wheelchairs and more – even walking – with daily tasks set to challenge their senses. The five senses put to the test are sight, smell, taste, touch and sound. Parents are caregivers are encouraged to share their child's participation and get entered to win a bike for their child. To find out more about Bike & Roll Week, please visit: sfbike.org/bikeandrollsf.

DPH in the News

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https://www.sfchronicle.com/education/article/S-F-seniors-might-go-back-to-school-for-only-one-16166684.php

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May 10 2021, Chronicle, S.F. schools report handful of coronavirus cases, none among vaccinated



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people

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