

Dan Bernal
President
Laurie Green, M.D.
Vice President
Edward A. Chow, M.D.
Commissioner
Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.
Commissioner
Cecilia Chung
Commissioner
Suzanne Giraudo ED.D
Commissioner
Tessie M. Guillermo
Commissioner

**HEALTH COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO**

**London N. Breed Mayor
Department of Public Health**



Grant Colfax, MD
Director of Health
Mark Morewitz, M.S.W.
Executive Secretary

TEL (415) 554-2666
FAX (415) 554-2665
Web Site: <http://www.sfdph.org>

MINUTES
HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday September 21, 2021 4:00 p.m.
Remote Meeting via Webex Event

1) CALL TO ORDER

Present: Commissioner Dan Bernal President
Commissioner Laurie Green, MD, Vice President
Commissioner Edward A. Chow M.D.
Commissioner Cecilia Chung (*left meeting at 6pm*)
Commissioner Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.
Commissioner Suzanne Giraudo, Ph.D
Commissioner Tessie Guillermo

The meeting was called to order at 4:07pm.

2) DPH EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS

The following DPH teams were recognized by the Health Commission for their dedication and impactful contributions to the health and well being of all San Franciscans.

- **Office of Health Equity Staff and Equity Leads**
 - Dante King
 - Gavin Morrow-Hall
 - Tanya Yared
 - Jessica Brown
 - Alicia St. Andrews
 - Michael Rojas
 - Elaine Lee
 - Richa Dhanju
 - Nick Gonsalves
 - Tanya Mera
 - Nicole Joe
 - Jennifer Carton-Wade
 - Amie Fishman
 - Melissa Brown
 - Veronica Sheppard
 - Isela Ford
 - Robin George
 - Andrea Turner
 - Elizabeth Lynch

- **Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program Staff**
 - Mario Gonzalez
 - Janice Lee
 - Kimsan Cheng
 - Angelica Ibarra
 - Lila Padilla
 - Alma Vasquez
 - Chu-Fen(Stella) Wang
 - Diana Wilson,
 - Hui (Queenie) Tan
 - Shrona Jackson
 - Teresa Chan
 - Gail Erivin
 - Yvonne Kong
 - Carrie Lee
 - Emily Melaugh
 - Amy Thompson
 - Nancy Flynn
 - Shauna Pirotin
 - Suzanne Malone
 - Grethel Pallavicini
 - Priti Rane

- **Covid-19 Task Force Equity and Neighborhoods Group**
 - Katy Tang
 - Aaron Yen
 - Isela Ford
 - Oscar Macias
 - Jazmin Barrera
 - Kelvin Wu
 - Ayofemi Bryant
 - Chantelle Wilson
 - David Leiva
 - Jessica Medina

3) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2021.

Public Comment:

Michael Petrelis stated that the minutes do not reflect that Director Colfax gave no mention or praise for gay men for reduction in HIV infections when giving an overview of the 2020 HIV Surveillance Report. He added that it is crucial to the gay public health community that it be praised for all the work it did on its own and in partnership with the DPH to take care of people living with HIV and to reduce new infections.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the September 7, 2021 minutes.

4) DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Grant Colfax, MD, DPH Director of Health, presented the report.

Data shows COVID-19 cases among SF children is low and schools remain safe settings

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) is closely monitoring COVID-19 cases among children and in schools and is providing critical public health resources to San Francisco communities. These include free vaccinations for all eligible individuals; testing services; critical guidance and support to schools on COVID safety measures; and case investigations and contact tracing at schools. To date, our data demonstrate that cases among San Francisco residents under age 18 have remained low and stable throughout the pandemic and that schools are low-risk settings when the proper safety protocols are followed.

DPH data on schools and children will updated on a weekly basis to provide information and context to the COVID-19 pandemic in San Francisco as it relates to the impact on children. Future weekly updates will be made public on the City’s COVID-19 [data dashboards page](#).

Data Highlights for San Francisco on COVID-19 in Children through September 6, 2021:

- **Pediatric cases in children are a small percentage of total cases in San Francisco.** COVID-19 cases in children under 18 has remained less than 20% of overall cases throughout this pandemic, including the most recent surge due to the Delta variant. The vast majority of COVID-19 cases have been in adults.

- **The percentage of pediatric cases has been relatively consistent over time.** Recent data shows that 11.5% of COVID-19 positive cases were among children under 18. Recent historical 2021 data is as follows:
 - August: 12.8%
 - July: 10.8%
 - June: 12.8%
 - May: 17.0%
- **Serious forms of COVID among children are extremely rare in San Francisco.** The majority of San Francisco children with COVID-19 have mild symptoms or are asymptomatic, including most recent cases from the Delta variant. Hospitalization of San Francisco children due to COVID-19 continues to be so low (less than 5 at any given time) that the data cannot be publicly reported without concern for privacy and confidentiality.
- **Vaccinations are our best defense to protect children.** An estimated 90% of children ages 12 to 17 are fully vaccinated. We highly encourage all eligible members for the household (12+ years old) to get vaccinated to protect children who are not yet eligible for the vaccine. The majority of pediatric COVID-19 cases in San Francisco were from an unvaccinated adult in the household getting COVID-19 and transmitting it to their family members, including children.

Schools are safe places for our children to learn, socialize and play when the appropriate safety measures are taken. When community background rates of COVID-19 are high, we expect to see cases in most settings, including among children and individuals at schools. SFPDH’s guidelines for schools are designed to stop the spread of COVID between people at school while minimizing disruptions to the school community. When the proper safety measures are in place, schools are a low risk environment for children and youth. More information on school guidelines for COVID-19 can be found [here](#).

Opening of four new vaccination sites at SFUSD schools

Mayor London N. Breed and DPH announced that vaccination sites are launching the week of September 13 at four schools in partnership with the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) in order to further support vaccination among eligible individuals in schools and the surrounding community.

The vaccination sites—located at located at Malcolm X Academy School in the Bayview; Balboa High School in the Excelsior; McCoppin Elementary School in the Inner Richmond; and Sunset Elementary School in the Outer Sunset—will initially administer doses once a week at each site, with several sites open on evenings and weekends to support working families. While these vaccination sites will prioritize staff and families with children at SFUSD, they will also serve the general community. Walk-ins are welcome, and documentation of identity is not required.

DPH has released data showing that pediatric cases have remained low and stable among children, and that schools are safe settings for children when the proper protocols are followed. San Francisco has one of the highest vaccination rates in the world with 81% of the eligible population fully vaccinated. An estimated 90% of children ages 12 to 17 are fully vaccinated.

Funding and staffing for the vaccination sites is provided by DPH and the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families, with the locations for the sites being provided by SFUSD. Each of the four school sites has the initial capacity to administer 62 doses each day and is prepared to expand to up to 200 a day, as needed. COVID-19 vaccines are currently FDA-approved for people 12 years and older. Details are as follows:

Malcolm X Academy School

350 Harbor Road in the Bayview

3:30 pm – 6:30 pm on Tuesdays starting 9/14

Balboa High School

1000 Cayuga Ave in the Excelsior
2:30 pm – 5:30 pm on Wednesdays starting 9/15

McCoppin Elementary School

651 6th Ave in the Richmond
10:30 am – 1:30 pm on Saturdays starting 9/18

Sunset Elementary School

1920 41st Ave in the Sunset
10:30 am – 1:30 pm on Sundays starting 9/19

Please visit [SF.GOV/getvaccinated](https://sf.gov/getvaccinated) for a complete list of vaccination sites as well as days and hours of operation. People are encouraged to first seek vaccination through their health care provider, if they have one.

Robán San Miguel receives the Latina/o/x/e Behavioral Health Excellence in Prevention Award

Congratulations to Robán San Miguel, LCSW for being selected and awarded the Latina/o/x/e Behavioral Health Excellence in Prevention Award by the National Latino Behavioral Health Association. Robán will be recognized and celebrated on September 16 at the 2021 [National Latino Behavioral Health Virtual Conference](#). As Director of Mission Family Center (MFC) since 2014, and as a Latina and Indigenous clinician, Robán has grounded her treatment and leadership by centering culturally-responsive practices and community. She has insured that mental health services are provided in the language of the family and focus on the family in the context of community. She has provided training, supervision, and leadership at MFC to ensure that traditional, spiritual, cultural, and intergenerational practices have been interspersed with western treatments, and that healing is co-created and collaborative. In her various roles through the years and across our systems, she has strengthened not just the resiliency of many Latina/o/x/e individuals but also of programs that serve Latina/o/x/e families. Thank you, Robán, and congratulations once again!

Environmental Health and Community Health Equity and Promotion Branches' work reviews in British Medical Journal

DPH's Environmental Health Branch's Retail Tobacco Program and the Community Health Equity and Promotion Branch's work around eliminating flavored tobacco products in SF was reviewed in the *British Medical Journal*. The title of the article is "*Implementation of a comprehensive flavored tobacco product sales restriction and retail tobacco sales*". A link to the article can be found [here](#). The review authors concluded that "San Francisco's comprehensive restriction virtually eliminated flavoured (sic) tobacco sales and decreased total tobacco sales in mainstream retailers. Unlike other US flavoured tobacco policy evaluations, there was no evidence of substitution to concept-flavour named products. Results may be attributed to San Francisco Department of Health's self-education and rigorous retailer education, as well as the law's rebuttable presumption of a product as flavoured based on manufacturer communication." This is a great example of two DPH programs working together to improve public health.

[SFDPH in the News](#)

**SAN FRANCISCO HEALTH NETWORK
ZUCKERBERG SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL
HOSPITAL & TRAUMA CENTER**

September 2021

Governing Body Report - Credentialing Summary

(9/16/21 MEC)

	9/2021	07/2021 to 07/2022
<i>New Appointments</i>	22	59
Reinstatements	0	0
<i>Reappointments</i>	49	168
Delinquencies:		
Reappointment Denials:		
Resigned/Retired:	8	63
<i>Disciplinary Actions</i>		
Administrative Suspension		
<i>Restriction/Limitation-Privileges</i>		
Deceased		
<i>Changes in Privileges</i>		
Voluntary Relinquishments	14	30
Additions	10	27
Proctorship Completed	25	58

Current Statistics – as of 9/1/21		
Active Staff	560	
<i>Courtesy Staff</i>	631	
Affiliated Professionals (non-physicians)	292	
TOTAL MEMBERS	1,483	

<i>Applications in Process</i>	38
Applications Withdrawn Month of September 2021	0
SFGH Reappointments in Process 10/1/21 to 12/31/21	131

LAGUNA HONDA HOSPITAL AND REHABILITATION CENTER

September 2021
Health Commission - Director of Health Report
 (September 2, 2021 Medical Exec Committee)

	September	(FY 2021-2022) Year-to-Date
<i>New Appointments</i>	3	7
Reinstatements	0	0
<i>Reappointments</i>	6	16
Delinquencies:	0	0
Reappointment Denials:	0	0
Resigned/Retired/Separated	1	9
<i>Disciplinary Actions</i>	0	0
<i>Restriction/Limitation-Privileges</i>	0	0
Deceased	0	0
<i>Changes in Privileges</i>		
Additions	0	0
Voluntary Relinquishments	0	0
Proctorship Completed	0	0
Proctorship Extension	0	0

Current Statistics – as of 08/31/2021	
Active Medical Staff	34
As-Needed Medical Staff	16
<i>External Consultant Medical Staff</i>	45
<i>Courtesy Medical Staff</i>	2
<i>Affiliated Health Practitioners</i>	6
TOTAL MEMBERS	103

Applications in Process	2
Applications Withdrawn this month	0

Public Comment:

Michael Petris stated that Director Colfax did not mention the controversy of Mayor Breed's attendance at a cafe while not wearing a mask. He is concerned that the Mayor is setting a bad example for others in regard to adhering to COVID-19 regulations. He also chastised the Health Commission for not adding this issue on its agenda.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Bernal thanked Director Colfax for highlighting the selection of Robán San Miguel, LCSW for the Latina/o/x/e Behavioral Health Excellence in Prevention Award by the National Latino Behavioral Health Association.

5) COVID-19 UPDATE

Grant Colfax, MD, DPH Director of Health, presented the item.

Public Comment:

Michael Petrelis stated that he read a tweet from the LGBTQ Cultural District stating that there are higher rates of Delta COVID-19 infection in the Castro, but he has not received any data saying that gays have a higher rate of Delta COVID-19 infections. If there is a higher rate of infection in gay or the Castro District, he wants the DPH to address this through a town hall meeting in the Castro.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Girardo asked for information regarding preparations for distributing vaccines to 5-11 year old children once the vaccine is approved for this population by the state and federal governments. She suggested the DPH COVID-19 group develop a letter to be sent to school principals, who could send it to all students and students' families giving all the relevant information, including websites and phone numbers.

Commissioner Green asked if health systems will give assurances that they will give booster vaccine shots to their own healthcare workers instead of having the DPH managing this task. Director Colfax stated that the DPH has been working with healthcare systems throughout the pandemic. There has been a commitment to share the work of distributing vaccines. He added that the DPH is striving to encourage health systems to commit to multiple vaccine sites with flexible appointments.

Commissioner Chow asked if there will be easy to comprehend messages for the public around availability of vaccines, the populations approved, and the contact information for vaccine sites. Director Colfax stated that the operation questions are being considered by the team. He offered to bring the COVID-19 vaccine team back for an update in the future.

Commissioner Bernal stated that he is glad to see the disparities within several racial groups reduced in regard to vaccine distribution. He thanked the DPH staff for all the effective work that contributed to the decrease in these data.

6) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Petrulis stated that the Health Commission should hold a meeting on LGBTQ health in San Francisco with a focus on COVID-19 data and including the good news about the decrease in HIV infections and longevity of some long-term HIV survivors.

7) ANNUAL HIV/STI REPORT

Stephanie Cohen, MD, MPH, Medical Director, City Clinic, Director, STI Prevention and Control, Acting Director, Disease Prevention and Control; and Ling Hsu, MPH, Director of HIV Surveillance & Epidemiology; Hyman Scott MD, Medical Director, Clinical Research, Bridge HIV; Eileen Loughran, Community Health Equity and

Promotion Health Program Coordinator; Nikole Trainer, MPH, MCHES, CPII, Getting to Zero Program Coordinator; and Hanna Hjord, MPH, HIV/HCV/STI Behavioral Health Coordinator, presented the item.

Public Comment:

Michael Petrelis stated that there was not a single word of praise for gay men in controlling STI and HIV rates in the written report or verbal presentation. He added that harm to this community has been caused by the DPH because it refuses to praise the community. He requested that the DPH hold a community meeting to share the data and praise the LGBTQ communities.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Bernal asked if data indicate that long-term use of anti-retroviral therapy impacts the cause of death in people with HIV. Ms. Hsu stated that the underlying causes of death in people living with HIV were not tracked.

Commissioner noted that in a presentation last year, data indicated that all groups, except Black/African American men, improved viral suppression. He asked if there is more insight into how to improve viral suppression in this important group. Dr. Cohen stated that the Getting to Zero and Ending the Epidemic programs are working to make access to HIV medication low barrier and more convenient.

Commissioner Chung stated that the disparities in the housed and unhoused continue to be alarming. She also noted there is a widening of the gap between trans/cis-gender women and men. She also noted concern for the rise in Syphilis cases among women. She added that the system is not set up for convenient HIV testing for women. Dr. Cohen agreed that improvements need to be made to make it easier for women to be tested for HIV. She noted that the rise in Syphilis cases in women is a national trend. She added that in San Francisco the DPH has noted that substance use, history of trauma, and multiple other stressful life events compound the issues that impact Syphilis case rates in women.

Commissioner Chung noted that her observation is that the reduction in HIV cases and rise in STI cases were tied to the introduction of PrEP in the community. Dr. Cohen stated that it is unclear if PrEP is a driver in the STI case increase in cisgender women; there may be co-occurring epidemics.

Commissioner Chung noted that it is uncommon for there to be Syphilis transmission between women. She asked if men who are having sex with both men and women could be a source of transmission. Dr. Cohn stated that there are men who have sex with men and cis and transgender women on the work group who deliver services and provide insight into some of these issues. Ms. Lougran stated that encampment culture may be different in that if women are tested and find out they have an STI, the men in the encampment will likely be asked to test. Commissioner Chung noted that it is very important to consider gender-based power dynamics and abuse in these situations.

Commissioner Christian stated that she appreciates the discussion of intersectionality. She asked if the data on slide 8 includes transwomen. Ms. Hsu stated that data shows an increase for women aged 14-18 years of age, especially those who inject drugs and identify as heterosexual. Dr. Cohen added a history of substance use and trauma also contribute to the increase in STIs within the cisgender heterosexual female population.

Commissioner Chow stated that he continues to be concerned with the STI rates in Latinx populations and asked if age is a factor. Dr. Cohen stated that she shares concern for STI prevalence in the Latinx population and noted that there remains stigma to accessing services, although there is a high uptake of PrEP in the Latinx men-who-have-sex-with-men (MSM) community. Ms. Hsu stated that the DPH did not include age on slide 12 but it can conduct further analysis using age as a co-factor. She indicated that current data shows that STI rates increased most in those aged 18-29 years in the Latinx communities.

Commissioner Chow stated that he wants to know if there are new drivers related to the increase in STI and HIV rates for various groups.

Commissioner Bernal asked if navigators are being hired from impacted communities. Ms. Hjord stated that the team is working closely with DPH Human Resources to recruit from impacted communities. She noted that the jobs are city positions so there are minimum qualifications and city's bureaucracy .

Commissioner Green stated that she appreciates the collaboration between the community and the DPH. She is concerned that a blood test is required to conduct a Syphilis screening. Dr. Cohen stated that there is a point-of-contact test which uses a finger stick to detect antibodies.

Commissioner Green noted how important the groundbreaking work of the DPH in this area is and encouraged the Department to share its knowledge with other health systems in an effort to normalize testing for pregnant women.

Commissioner Chow noted that several years ago, youth prevention was a priority. Dr. Cohen stated that youth/adolescents remain a priority population, noting that the DPH participates in several collaborations. She also noted that the DPH plans to launch in-home STI testing for young women.

Commissioner Chow asked if the San Francisco Health Network clinics participate in these collaborations and activities. Dr. Scott stated that all of the DPH clinics have a PrEP coordinator and all clinic patients on PrEP are required to participate in quarterly HIV and STI testing.

8) TO ESTABLISH A SAN FRANCISCO HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS ("HCH") CO-APPLICANT BOARD ("CAB") COMPRISED OF 11 VOTING MEMBERS REPRESENTATIVE OF PATIENTS SERVED AND INTERESTED COMMUNITY MEMBERS, TO PROVIDE OVERSIGHT OF THE HCH PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY CHARTER, MUNICIPAL CODE AND THE FEDERAL LAWS AND REQUIREMENTS GOVERNING THE HCH PROGRAM, AS MORE SPECIFICALLY SET FORTH IN THE CAB AGREEMENT AND CAB BYLAWS, ACCOMPANYING THIS AGENDA ITEM

Hali Hammer, MD, Director of Ambulatory Care, Bill Blum, Director of Programs, Primary Care, Beth Neary, Health Care for the Homeless Program Director, presented the item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Bernal thanked Dr. Hammer for the presentation.

9) OTHER BUSINESS:

This item was not discussed.

10) JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

This item was deferred due to time.

11) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm.