

Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of October 19, 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 51,400 San Francisco residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19. And, sadly, a total of 645 San Franciscans have died. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) sends our condolences to their loved ones.

Expansion of Street Overdose Response Team

Mayor London N. Breed, the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH), and the San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD) announced an expansion of the Street Overdose Response Team (SORT) to include a follow-up team of health care specialists in substance use who can provide long-term, continual care for drug overdose survivors to support them on the path toward wellness.

Like many communities throughout the country, San Francisco has seen a rapid increase in drug overdoses in recent years due to the proliferation of the powerful, synthetic opioid fentanyl. As part of the City's urgent response to the overdose crisis, SORT launched on August 2, 2021 with a medical clinician and community paramedic to immediately engage with people following an overdose. In its first six weeks, SORT responded to more than 300 calls, of which about half, or 153 people, were cases of overdoses. The team distributed harm reduction supplies like fentanyl test strips and naloxone (Narcan) to more than 115 people and helped more than 20 people start the opioid treatment medication buprenorphine.

The newly expanded follow-up team, led by DPH's Street Medicine program, will re-engage with those same individuals within 72-hours to provide medical care in the field, maintain a connection over the long-term and guide them to care, treatment, and other overdose prevention measures. This could include ongoing buprenorphine treatment, primary care, and connections to mental health services to reduce risk of future risk of overdose. This follow-up team anticipates building a case list of approximately 700 targeted individuals who will receive ongoing care beyond the 72-hour follow-up.

By bringing the "clinic" to the person, SORT builds on the City's effective street team model of care to target people vulnerable to overdoses. SORT is designed to specifically support people experiencing homelessness, whose rate of overdose deaths has doubled in the past year and who account for at least one-quarter of all overdose deaths in the City.

SORT targets its efforts to reach those most impacted by the drug crisis and those who experience the most significant barriers to accessing City services. This includes our residents experiencing homeless who contend with instability that makes treatment challenging and members of the Black/African American community who face structural racism in their path to wellness. Initial data from SORT shows that the team is meeting those most in need—of the total people served thus far, a quarter identify as Black/African American and over half are unsheltered.

More information about SORT can be found at: sf.gov/street-overdose-response-team

Bay Area Health Officers issue criteria for lifting indoor COVID-19 indoor masking requirements

As decisions to vaccinate and wear face coverings indoors drive down COVID-19 case rates and hospitalizations, health officers for the nine Bay Area jurisdictions that require face coverings in most indoor public spaces reached consensus on criteria to lift those health orders.

The counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma and the City of Berkeley will lift the indoor masking requirement in public spaces not subject to state and federal masking rules when all the following occur:

- The jurisdiction reaches the moderate (yellow) [COVID-19 transmission tier](#), as defined by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), and remains there for at least three weeks; AND
- COVID-19 hospitalizations in the jurisdiction are low and stable, in the judgment of the health officer; AND
- 80% of the jurisdiction's total population is fully vaccinated with two doses of Pfizer or Moderna or one dose of Johnson & Johnson (booster doses not considered); OR
- Eight weeks have passed since a COVID-19 vaccine has been authorized for emergency use by federal and state authorities for 5- to 11-year-olds

Lifting a local indoor mask mandate would not prevent businesses, nonprofits, churches or others with public indoor spaces from imposing their own requirements. As COVID-19 easily spreads through airborne droplets, face coverings remain highly powerful in preventing its spread.

Each jurisdiction will rescind its order when criteria are met in that respective county or city. The criteria were developed to assist in determining the safest time to lift the indoor masking orders, based on regional scientific and medical consensus. The criteria also provide safety for school children, ages 5-11, who need the added protection of masks in the community to keep case rates low so they can remain in school until they can be vaccinated.

Separately from the other Bay Area jurisdictions, San Francisco announced a more immediate easing of masking requirements beginning on October 15th in certain, select indoor settings where stable groups of fully vaccinated people gather. San Francisco has a proof of vaccination requirement to enter many indoor businesses, which is helping to slow the spread of the virus.

As part of its criteria for universally lifting masks requirements, San Francisco will also consider the equitable distribution of the vaccine among children of vulnerable and highly impacted communities when reaching the 80% vaccination threshold.

[California's health guidance for the use of face coverings](#) will remain in effect after local masking requirements are lifted, meaning that people who are not fully vaccinated for COVID-19 must continue to wear masks in businesses and indoor public spaces.

The state also requires face coverings for everyone, regardless of vaccination status, in healthcare facilities, public transit and adult and senior care facilities. California's masking guidelines in K-12 schools would also not be affected by changes to local health orders.

SF reaches milestone of 70% of city's Black/African American population vaccinated for COVID-19

As of October 8, 2021, 70% of eligible San Francisco Black/African American residents have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The City will continue to ensure vaccine access with a special focus on neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

San Francisco vaccination rates are among the highest in the nation and the world. In partnership with many community organizations, the City has achieved this by developing a robust, low-barrier distribution system to ensure that communities hardest hit by the disease have access to vaccinations. At 70%, more than 30,000 San Francisco residents who are Black/African American have received a first dose of the vaccine, which is well above state (57%) and national (37%) averages.

While San Francisco has seen tremendous progress in its vaccination efforts, the City is laser-focused on ramping up vaccine opportunities in neighborhoods with lower vaccination uptake. The City is working with trusted community partners on low barrier drop-in appointments at clinics and hospitals, going door-to-door, hosting family day events, and providing mobile vaccination drives to serve people with challenges accessing vaccines, all in partnership with the community. These efforts have resulted in a higher proportion of the DPH-administered vaccinations going to people of color.

Among the health providers and community partners that have helped the City reach the 70% milestone are Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates, Booker T. Washington, Community Awareness Resource Entity (C.A.R.E), Community Service Center, George Davis Senior Center, I.T. Bookman Community Center, Mother Brown's, Rafiki Coalition for Health and Wellness, San Francisco African American Faith Based Coalition, Third Street Youth Center and Clinic, Umoja Health, Urban Services YMCA, and YMCA-Bayview.

SF to mandate vaccines for City contractors

Mayor London N. Breed issued a Mayoral Order mandating vaccination for all City contractors who work alongside City employees on a regular basis at a facility owned, leased, or controlled by the City. This mandate will also apply to all City Commissioners. All contractors will be required to be fully vaccinated by December 31st, 2021.

This City Contractor Mandate will work in concert with San Francisco's Worker Vaccine Mandate, which requires all City employees to be fully vaccinated no later than November 1st, 2021, with earlier deadlines for those who work in high-risk facilities like jails, hospitals, and homeless shelters. Contractors who work in high-risk settings are already required to be vaccinated under Health Orders. The City Contractor Mandate will ensure that all those who regularly work alongside City workers are vaccinated. Examples include:

- If a contractor employee has a work station at a City office building and is working there in person a few days per week.
- If a nonprofit employee is working at the nonprofit worksite where City employees are regularly working.

Contractors may grant exemptions for employees based on qualifying medical reasons or religious

beliefs consistent with the City Worker Mandate.

Under the Mayoral Order, the City Administrator's Office is tasked with issuing processes and procedures to implement this vaccine mandate and providing guidance to City Departments and Contractors regarding the policy.

San Francisco's City workforce has one of these highest vaccination rates of any City in the country. Under San Francisco's vaccination requirement for employees, which was the first implemented in the country, all City employees must be fully vaccinated no later than November 1st, 2021 in order to continue employment with the City, with exemptions provided for qualifying medical reasons or sincerely held religious beliefs.

The City Contractor Mandate, as well as the City Worker Mandate, are part of San Francisco's broader effort to combat the impacts of COVID-19 with the most effective tool available: the vaccine. The vaccines remain highly effective in preventing hospitalization and death.

DPH urges flu vaccination ahead of the holiday season

DPH strongly recommends that everyone ages 6 months and older get a flu vaccine to safeguard their health, as November brings the start of flu season that will overlap with COVID-19 this year.

Last year's flu season was relatively mild, as people significantly reduced contact with each other and masked during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. While it's still unknown how severe this year's flu season will be, people are returning to many social activities. With increased contact during the holiday season, people could easily spread influenza. San Franciscans can prepare for the combined circulation of flu and COVID-19, which have many of the same symptoms, by vaccinating against both.

With flu and COVID-19 vaccinations widely available across health care systems, pharmacies, and the San Francisco Health Network, among other locations, every eligible San Franciscan should be able to access vaccines at free or reduced cost. Adding to the convenience, the flu vaccine can be safely administered at the same time as a COVID-19 vaccine, or the Pfizer-BioNTech booster.

It takes about two weeks after vaccination for the body to build immunity against flu, so now is the time to get vaccinated to maximize protection during the flu season. More information about the flu vaccine can be found [here](#).

DPH awarded 2021 Quality Leaders Award for innovation

DPH has won the prestigious 2021 CA Public Health Safety Net Institute's Quality Leaders Award for *San Francisco's Safe Return to In-Person Learning During the COVID-19 Pandemic* in the *Innovation* category. This award includes a \$2,000 cash prize for DPH, along with one free registration to attend the CAPH/SNI Annual Conference. DPH's winning project will be showcased at the conference with award acceptance remarks and a video overview. Congratulations to the DPH Schools Team for your excellent work and this well-deserved recognition!

Environmental Health Branch recognizes ‘Lead Prevention Week’

The Environmental Health Branch’s Childhood Lead Prevention Program is dedicated to eliminating children's exposure to lead hazards. In San Francisco, children are most often exposed to lead when their hands or objects touch damaged paint, soil or surfaces with lead dust, and later their hands or those objects get placed in their mouth. Lead is an invisible poison that can harm a child's growth and development.

Lead Week is a national annual campaign during the last full week of October to bring awareness to and prevent childhood lead exposure. This year, Lead Week will take place on October 24-30. The San Francisco Childhood Lead Prevention Program will be participating in the following activities:

- Conduct Lead Presentation to childcare providers in English, Chinese and Spanish.
- Mail out Fall's issue of program newsletter, The Word on Lead Prevention, to family childcare providers, childcare centers, community-based organizations, and health care providers and facilities.
- Work with DPH's Public Information Office to post lead prevention and awareness messages on DPH's social media accounts.
- Mail out letter, lead fact sheets, and registration information the State's Lead Webinar Series to SF health care providers.
- Our program staff, Senior Inspector Karen Yu, will be presenting on Oct. 29 during the State's Lead Webinar Series.

COVID boosters virtual lunch and learn event

DPH hosted a ‘COVID-19 Boosters Lunch and Learn’ webinar on Wednesday, October 6. Dr. Grant Colfax, Dr. Elizabeth Kwan (Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, UCSF), and Dr. Joseph Graterol (Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, UCSF) shared the latest information regarding booster doses, including who is currently eligible under guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The recorded video is available on SFGovTV’s YouTube: <https://youtu.be/V-z0fMD2FpA>

DPH and our health system partners are now administering Pfizer booster doses to eligible individuals *at least 6 months after receiving their second dose*. We’re encouraging people seeking boosters to first consult with their healthcare provider and receive the Pfizer booster dose through their health system, provider and/or medical home, local or retail pharmacies (such as CVS, Walgreens, Safeway), or by finding an appointment at [SF.gov/getvaccinated](https://sf.gov/getvaccinated).

[SFDPH in the News](#)

LAGUNA HONDA HOSPITAL AND REHABILITATION CENTER

October 2021

Health Commission - Director of Health Report

(October 7, 2021 Medical Exec Committee)

	(FY 2021-2022)	
	October	Year-to-Date
New Appointments	2	9
Reinstatements	0	0
Reappointments	7	23
Delinquencies:	0	0
Reappointment Denials:	0	0
Resigned/Retired/Separated	0	9
Disciplinary Actions	0	0
Restriction/Limitation-Privileges	0	0
Deceased	1	1
Changes in Privileges		
Additions	0	0
Voluntary Relinquishments	0	0

Proctorship Completed	0	0
Proctorship Extension	0	0

Current Statistics – as of 10/05/2021		
Active Medical Staff	35	
As-Needed Medical Staff	13	
External Consultant Medical Staff	45	
Courtesy Medical Staff	2	
Affiliated Health Practitioners	8	
TOTAL MEMBERS	103	

Applications in Process	2
Applications Withdrawn this month	0