



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 January 3, 2023

A current overview of issues affecting the state of public health in San Francisco
<https://www.dph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/insideDept/dirRpts/default.asp>

Today, there are over 189,000 San Francisco residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19-19. And, sadly, a total of 1,103 San Franciscans have died. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) sends our condolences to their loved ones.

SAN FRANCISCO AWARDED \$33.7 MILLION GRANT TO FUND NEW ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT FACILITIES

Mayor London N. Breed announced a \$33.7 million state grant awarded to DPH to build new inpatient and outpatient psychiatric facilities for youth at ZSFG, which will include a 12-bed psychiatric inpatient program and a 24-slot intensive behavioral health outpatient program.

The grant awarded by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will address the urgent regional need for more inpatient and outpatient treatment options for adolescents who are uninsured or on Medi-Cal, with capabilities to serve a minimum of 450 people in its inpatient unit and at least 900 intensive outpatient treatment clients annually.

DPH Behavioral Health Services will use the funding to renovate, remodel and bring to code two large and currently unused spaces at ZSFG, the city's public hospital and only Level 1 trauma center serving San Francisco and northern San Mateo County.

The 12-bed inpatient adolescent psychiatric hospital will operate on the seventh floor of ZSFG. The sixth floor will expand current outpatient services delivered by UCSF to include an intensive behavioral health outpatient and partial hospitalization program capable of treating as many as 24 young people at a time.

San Francisco has a robust network of behavioral health services to meet the needs of children, youth, and families. Currently, DPH works with private hospitals across the Bay Area and northern California for the inpatient placement of youth experiencing mental health crisis. By building our own county-run unit in collaboration with UCSF at ZSFGH, the City has the ability to make placement decisions to ensure all adolescents have access to this critical service close to home and supported by their families. The expansion of current outpatient services at ZSFG to include intensive outpatient treatment and partial hospital program, will allow San Francisco to create a crisis continuum for youth and families.



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The units will be fully funded by DPH and managed in collaboration with the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Services, with which ZSFG maintains a longstanding partnership. A timeline estimating when construction will begin, and when the programs will launch, will be determined in early 2023.

San Francisco was one of 54 awardees this year under the DHCS grant program to support new or expanded behavioral health facilities for youth.

ZSFG ALL STAFF EMAIL MESSAGE RE: WINTER SURGE AT ZSFG CONTINUES

Sent: December 19, 2022

From: Hospital CEO, Dr. Susan Ehrlich

I want to update everyone on our interventions and response as the winter surge continues.

We remain very busy with a high census, in part, due to an early and aggressive flu season, RSV, and increasing COVID-19 cases. This is on top of our regular volume of patients who need us and difficulty in finding lower levels of care for patients who can be discharged. This adds up to very busy and challenging days for all of us.

We are not alone. Hospitals throughout the city, the region, the state, and the nation are facing similar challenges.

We are working every day on an hour-to-hour basis to manage and address this very high census knowing that we will likely be busy well into the new year.

Our interventions are having an impact and that's because we are all working on this as a team.

Even with record-breaking volume, we have prioritized the health and safety of our patients, while taking actions to also support staff. Here's what we are doing and how we are doing:

- H58, our surge med-surg unit, has been open with 12 or 15 patients, its full capacity.
- H48, our surge ICU unit, has been open frequently to ensure all patients who need ICU care can get it quickly.
- The PACU has been keeping more patients following surgery, and we have plans to expand its use further should the ICUs run out of space.
- We are hiring nurses, using registry staff, and have added two additional inpatient teams in order to keep our patients safe and to ensure we meet state-mandated nursing ratios.
- We are currently limiting elective come-and-stay surgeries/procedures and are evaluating closely to see if we need to limit them further.



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- Inpatient teams are planning discharges earlier with a goal to discharge patients by 2 p.m. when possible.
- 4A is accepting patients by 3pm, and as quickly as possible.
- We issued new guidance last week about limiting holiday gatherings with shared food in order to limit the spread of respiratory viruses among our staff and are continually reviewing our guidance about masking and gathering. The hospital flow committee, which consists of leaders from all ZSFG operational areas, meets weekly to review data, discuss countermeasures and problem solve current flow challenges.
- We are working with the SF Health Network and DPH to increase capacity of discharge resources. For example, this week the SFHN expanded availability of respite beds to accommodate our patients.
- We have a dedicated ZSFG lower level of care team helping discharge our most complicated patients, and we include our colleagues from Behavioral Health Services in order to ensure our patients have timely access to all available resources
- We are working closely with our local regulatory agency, the Emergency Medical Services Agency, to balance meeting our mandate to keep the Emergency Department open and available to all patients, while managing critical volumes in the ED and the hospital overall.

Please do your part, the tips to stay healthy are ones we know well, but bear repeating:

- Get your flu shot;
- Get your COVID-19 booster;
- Clean your hands often;
- Always wear your mask while on the ZSFG campus – be sure your mouth and nose are covered;
- Do not come to work when you are ill and report to Occupational Health Services if you believe you have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, even if they are mild, or have had a high-risk exposure; and

I am amazed by and grateful for the teamwork I see every day here at ZSFG. The compassion you are showing your coworkers and our patients is exactly how we will get through this together.

HOLIDAY SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN ON PREVENTING DRUG OVERDOSES

To promote safe New Year's Eve celebrations, DPH staff developed and published a social media campaign on mindful drinking and preventing accidental drug overdoses.

DPH's campaign on Twitter and Facebook aimed to raise public awareness of the dangers of fentanyl and how the deadly opioid has been found in cocaine and other drugs. The social media posts educated the public on how to access lifesaving tools such as fentanyl test strips and naloxone, the overdose-reversing medication.



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In addition, the campaign included tips on mindful drinking, such as keeping track of how much and how often you consume alcoholic beverages and ensuring that you are not mixing alcohol with other substances and pointed people to [resources](#) on the topic.

The social media posts promoted key DPH resources, such as the City’s Overdose Prevention Plan and a health alert on overdoses caused by fentanyl found in cocaine. View the social media campaign at https://twitter.com/sf_dph and <https://www.facebook.com/sfpublichealth/>.

MPX UPDATE

LOCATION	TOTAL CASES AS OF 11/5/22 (probable and confirmed)
San Francisco	841
California	5,670
U.S.	29,792
Worldwide	83,539

COVID-19-19 UPDATE

As of December 21:

- San Francisco’s 7-day rolling average of new COVID-19 cases per day is 175 and 107 people are hospitalized, including 14 in the ICU.
- Eighty-six percent of all SF residents have been vaccinated and 64% have received booster dose(s).

[DPH in the News](#)