



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 July 2, 2024

A current overview of issues affecting the state of public health in San Francisco

<https://sf.gov/departments/san-francisco-health-commission/past-meetings>

In alignment with the California Department of Public Health, we will no longer report on COVID-19 case data. More people are now testing themselves at home for COVID-19 and we do not get data from at-home testing. This affects the accuracy of data on testing volume. We will continue to report on [test positivity](#) and will monitor other indicators including hospitalizations.

LAGUNA HONDA HOSPITAL IS RECERTIFIED IN THE FEDERAL MEDICARE PROGRAM

Laguna Honda Hospital was approved for Medicare recertification, the final step in securing the future of the facility and keeping residents in their home.

Laguna Honda can continue to accept and support residents regardless of their financial status as the facility will be reimbursed by both Medicare and Medicaid. More than 95% of Laguna Honda residents rely on Medicaid funding for their care. The remaining rely on Medicare funding. Together, the funding sources for resident care at Laguna Honda have been fully restored.

Laguna Honda represents a significant and extensive commitment by San Francisco of publicly funded skilled nursing care for those with limited means. Representing more than 30% of all skilled nursing beds in San Francisco, Laguna Honda provides safety net healthcare services to hundreds of the City's most vulnerable individuals with complex medical and care needs.

Coupled with the successful Medicaid recertification completed in August of 2023, Laguna Honda is now fully recertified in both Medicare and Medicaid, a successful completion to the more than two-year recertification with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

In April 2022, CMS terminated Laguna Honda's participation in Medicare and Medicaid Provider Program. As a result of the termination, Laguna Honda was at risk of closing its doors after 150 years of serving San Francisco's most in need. Laguna Honda responded with a heroic effort that put the health and wellbeing of residents at the center. Laguna Honda staff have made the facility-wide improvements necessary to improve resident care and safety as well as the significant changes to meet the rigorous regulatory requirements and timelines set by CMS.



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Laguna Honda staff worked tirelessly to make rapid improvements to operations, culture, and personnel. Laguna Honda completed a facility-wide recertification plan with nearly 1,000 action items. The plan represented an immense amount of work with no stone left unturned. This included extensive trainings on skilled nursing best practices, improved clinical processes such as medicine administration, wound care, and infection prevention and control, improved fire life safety and emergency response programs, the launch of a dedicated resident grievance team, a greatly expanded resident council and much more. Additionally, Laguna Honda hired a new leadership team with decades of combined experience in leading top-performing skilled nursing facilities.

The full recertification of Laguna Honda provides relief to current residents and their families as well as future generations of San Franciscans who can now be assured about the future of Laguna Honda and accessible skilled nursing care in San Francisco.

PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS INCLUDED IN PROPOSED CITY GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND

Mayor Breed and members of the Board of Supervisors introduced a \$390 million General Obligation Bond that would deliver key health infrastructure, expand family shelter, support street safety and road repaving, and improve public spaces to revitalize San Francisco. Called the Healthy, Safe and Vibrant San Francisco Bond, the \$390 million bond includes \$205.1 million in critical funding to ensure safe, resilient, and accessible public health infrastructure. Projects include:

- \$66 million in critical repairs at Zuckerberg San Francisco General (ZSFG) and Laguna Honda Hospital;
- \$40 million to seismically retrofit Building 3 at ZSFG;
- \$71.1 million to renovate Chinatown Public Health Center; and
- \$28 million to relocate City Clinic.

A key priority of the department is to operate our hospitals and health centers in safe, modern facilities.

The 2024 Healthy, Safe and Vibrant San Francisco Bond will allow us to continue to offer vital health care services to San Franciscans by fixing aging infrastructure that prevents hospitals and health centers from expanding, improving, and modernizing health services.

Specifically, the bond will fund critical repairs and renovations at our two safety net hospitals – ZSFG and Laguna Honda.



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These critical improvements are needed to ensure the hospitals remain operational, effective, and meet strict state and federal regulatory operating requirements to continue to deliver the highest quality care. At ZSFG, the bond includes projects that will ensure the hospital can retain its designation as a Level 1 Trauma Center and move staff out of seismically unsafe buildings.

The bond will also significantly expand ZSFG's Psychiatric Emergency Services, doubling the number of patients that can be served on a daily basis.

At Laguna Honda, proposed projects are directly tied to federal regulatory operating requirements and include enhancements that will have a direct and meaningful impact to the quality of care we provide to our most in need San Francisco residents who need long term skilled nursing care.

The proposed bond includes a full renovation and seismic upgrade to the Chinatown Public Health Center, our most seismically vulnerable health center. The bond also includes a much needed relocation of City Clinic, a leader and public health model in sexual health services. Making timely investments in critical repairs and renovations like these protect and preserve DPH assets.

The proposed Bond was approved by the City's Capital Planning Committee in April, introduced to the Board of Supervisors in May and will be heard at a full Board of Supervisors meeting in July. If approved by the Board, it will go on the ballot this November where it will require two-thirds approval by voters.

DPH PUBLIC HEALTH LAB RECEIVES "HEALTHIEST LABORATORY" AWARD

Congratulations to the DPH Public Health Laboratory who won the award for healthiest laboratory in a local jurisdiction, given by the Association of Public Health Laboratories. This award is given to laboratories that are committed to safety, environmental process, environmental policy and employee health and wellness. Our Public Health Laboratory is an essential component in our mission to protect and promote the health of all San Franciscans, and we are all proud that they have been recognized nationally.

JOINT COMMISSION BIENNIAL LAB ACCREDITATION SURVEY COMPLETE

ZSFG Hospital recently completed a four-day Joint Commission Lab Survey. Low-risk findings were identified, many of which staff corrected in real-time while the surveyors were on-site. These preliminary reports are subject to change as the Joint Commission generates a final report.



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The ZSFG Regulatory Team expresses their gratitude to all staff who sprang into action to ensure a smooth survey review that showcased the dedication and compassionate care provided at the hospital. Special thanks to Drs. Barbara Haller, Zane Amenhotep, and Shannon Kastner; lab managers and supervisors Vanessa Arellano and Binh Bui; Roger Mohammed and team from UCSF at ZSFG; Envinia Quinones and Connie Tong from ZSFG Human Resources; Julie Wong and Priyanka Karki from the Department of Education & Training; and Christina Bloom, RN, Nursing Director of the Critical Care Unit.

REPORTS OF RARE, DIFFICULT TO TREAT DERMATOPHYTE INFECTIONS

On June 19, the California Department of Public Health released a [Health Advisory](#) about reports of rare, difficult to treat dermatophyte infections associated with sexual contact in the United States and Europe. The advisory includes important information about the clinical presentation, diagnosis, and management of these infections.

Dermatophytes, including *Trichophyton* species, can cause fungal infections of the skin, also known as “tinea” or “ringworm.” Ringworm is common and typically responds to topical anti-fungal treatment. Worldwide, there have been increasing reports of tinea infections that are resistant to topical or oral anti-fungal medications. Currently, there are two tinea species of particular concern, due to cases identified in the United States:

1. ***Trichophyton mentagrophytes* genotype VII (TMVII)** is a rare dermatophyte that has been reported in France, primarily among men who have sex with men, that can cause highly inflammatory, painful, and persistent lesions, often affecting the anogenital or perioral areas. It may not respond to commonly used topical anti-fungal medications but can be treated using oral anti-fungal medications, including terbinafine. TMVII is reported to be spreading locally in Europe and other global regions. The first known case of TMVII in the United States was reported in June 2024 and occurred in an HIV-negative man in New York City who had sex with men and had recent travel to Europe and California. There have been no confirmed cases of TMVII in San Francisco.
2. ***Trichophyton indotineae*** is an emerging, terbinafine-resistant dermatophyte that has been causing outbreaks of extensive and difficult to treat tinea in southern Asia for several years. Multiple cases of *Trichophyton indotineae* have been identified in New York City. A case of sexually transmitted *Trichophyton indotineae* was reported in April 2024 in Pennsylvania in a woman who developed symptoms in winter of 2022 after travel to South Asia where she had vaginal intercourse with a male partner with an anogenital rash.



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Actions Requested of SF Providers:

- Empirically treat patients with tinea that is non-responsive to topical therapies with oral terbinafine.
- Obtain a fungal culture in patients with tinea infections that do not respond to topical anti-fungal or oral anti-fungal medications. If *Trichophyton* species is identified by culture, consider contacting one of the following laboratories for genomic sequencing to distinguish between species:
 - [Wadsworth Mycology Laboratory of the New York State Department of Health](#) (Albany, NY, USA)
 - [Fungus Testing Laboratory of the University of Texas Health](#) (San Antonio, TX, USA)
 - [Center for Medical Mycology of the University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center](#) (Cleveland, OH, USA)
- Report cases of resistant tinea to SFDPH, particularly if sexual transmission is suspected and the rash affects the anogenital or perioral region by faxing a [CMR](#) (write “resistant tinea” as disease being reported).

Program Contact Information

SFDPH Communicable Disease Section

Tel: 415-554-2860

Fax: 415-554-2848

Email: cdcontrol@sfdph.org

CELEBRATING OUR ZSFG RISK MANAGEMENT TEAM

ZSFG joined the nation in recognizing and celebrating Healthcare Risk Management Week, June 17-21. The Healthcare Risk Management Team at ZSFG plays an essential role in keeping staff and patients safe. The core team includes nurses Emma Uwodukunda (Director), Tess Soltys, Christian Alarcon, Denise Nucum, Amber Johnson, and Mary Lee; Medical Director Jeff Critchfield; Associate Medical Director Mary Gray; and our UCSF at ZSFG risk management colleagues, Marcie Gigena and Carmen Es-hagh. The team works with every department across the campus to identify safety concerns and to better understand and prevent adverse outcomes for the hospital’s patients.

The ZSFG Risk Management team also recently celebrated 10,000 SAFE reports through the ZSFG Safety Reporting System since the online tool went live in January 2023. Each entry in SAFE represents a proactive step towards identifying and mitigating potential hazards, ensuring the well-



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being of patients and employees, and maintaining the highest standards of quality and excellence. It reflects the diligence and dedication of each staff member in prioritizing safety as a core value. This accomplishment is a testament to ZSFG's collective commitment to fostering a culture of safety and continuous improvement within the workplace for staff and patients.

ZSFG RECEIVES LGBTQI+ HEALTHCARE EQUALITY LEADER DESIGNATION

For the second year in a row, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation recognized ZSFG as an LGBTQI+ Healthcare Equality Leader in its annual Healthcare Equality Index. The Human Rights Campaign Foundation is the educational arm of the Human Rights Campaign, America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve equality for LGBTQI+ people.

COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 06/13:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 5.4%.
- Thirty-two percent of SF residents are fully up to date on their COVID vaccinations and have received the updated vaccine.