

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 Giraud 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
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MINUTES
HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, January 18, 2022 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
Commissioner Suzanne Giraud, Ph.D
Commissioner Tessie Guillermo

Excused: Commissioner Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm.

2) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING OF JANUARY 4, 2022.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the January 4, 2022 meeting minutes.

3) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

SF issues new COVID-19 testing guidelines for health care providers

On January 11, Mayor London N. Breed and Director of Health Dr. Grant Colfax announced new COVID-19 testing guidelines for large healthcare providers like hospitals and hospital-affiliated systems to meet current demands and help minimize the impact of the Omicron-fueled surge. The new guidelines build on the City's testing order issued August 19, 2021, which is being revised by the Health Officer this week, requiring all large health care facilities to provide access to COVID-19 testing for people with symptoms and people who have been a close contact within 24 hours of a request from a member patient.

San Francisco officials also announced more support for the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), including providing more masks for students and educators, and adding to the District supply of rapid antigen tests to support educators who are in quarantine being able to test back into the classroom. These efforts are on top of SFUSD's work to expand testing support for both students and staff.

Under the new Mayoral Order, the largest health systems—meaning those that own or operate a hospital—will now be required to produce documentation twice a week to DPH with proof of meeting patient testing needs in a timely manner. Failure to comply with the Mayoral Order may result in fines imposed by the City and County of San Francisco of up to \$10,000 per day.

With more than 10,000 individuals tested daily in San Francisco, this Order will help to slow transmission and keep schools, hospitals, homeless shelters, and other essential services operating. Since the beginning of the pandemic, SFDPH has been the largest provider of COVID-19 tests in the City. SFDPH testing sites have been running at 500-900% of capacity since the current surge began.

While 81% of San Franciscans are vaccinated, and 58% of vaccinated residents have been boosted, the highly contagious Omicron-variant is still able to spread as breakthrough infections. This is impacting the City's delivery of essential services and creating a strain on the public health system.

Mayor Breed and SFDPH continue to reaffirm that schools have been low-risk settings with the proper safety protocols in place and that even with the certainty of additional cases, the mental health and educational impacts on students due to social isolation far outweigh the challenges of in-person learning. The City is working directly with SFUSD to provide a first series of 1,000 rapid tests to help educators test after quarantine to return to the classroom. The City is also providing 500,000 surgical masks for students, and 150,000 KN95 masks for staff.

SFUSD is currently providing mobile rapid testing to students returning from winter break, in addition to SFDPH testing sites and the District's ongoing Color testing program. Students are also receiving take-home rapid test kits supplied by the California Department of Public Health. For more information on testing for SFUSD students, please visit [here](#).

New actions underway in the Tenderloin, including linkage center

The City has entered into a lease for a new Linkage Center as part of its Tenderloin Emergency Initiative. This new Linkage Center is a services-focused location where people can voluntarily find respite from the streets and gain access to a wide variety of resources from the City and its partners.

The Linkage Center, authorized under the powers of the State of Emergency Declaration, is scheduled to open by January, which is months sooner than if the Declaration had not existed. Other initiatives under the Emergency Declaration are also underway, including expediting the hiring of behavioral health clinicians to support people suffering from substance use disorder in the Tenderloin.

Linkage Center Details

The purpose of this Center is to be a safe, welcoming location for people who suffer from substance use disorder in the Tenderloin where they can access hygiene resources and social space as well as to provide a single location for those who are ready to access city health and human services to link to those programs easily and quickly. The location will be a building leased at 1170 Market Street, including both inside and outside space and security.

Food, water, hygiene supplies, dignity services, and social space will be available at the Center. The Linkage Center will also include staff and referrals into programs including:

- Behavioral health care and treatment
- Temporary winter shelter
- Transitional housing

- Homeward bound
- Sobering / substance use treatment
- Food coordination
- Vocational support
- Therapy and mentoring
- Child and family care

Individuals can self-present to the Center or arrive via vehicle or foot escort by a community partner. If police encounter people on the street who may benefit from this Center, officers can call upon a health or social services partner to provide more information and an escort to the site.

The Center will be staffed by peer and community practitioners and is expected to open in mid-January. The site will ramp up to 24/7, but initial hours of operation depend on impacts from the current surge of COVID-19. Capacity will be up to 100 guests plus staff.

San Franciscans urged to get boosted and lower their risk exposure

With the Omicron-fueled surge propelling the City to its highest COVID-19 rates since the start of the pandemic, Mayor London N. Breed and Director of Health, Dr. Grant Colfax are urging San Franciscans to layer their defenses, including taking reasonable measures to lower their risk exposure to the virus where possible to slow transmission and keep schools, hospitals, homeless shelters, and other essential services operating. Additional City resources are being deployed, and health safety measures implemented in response to the surge to minimize the impact.

While 81% of San Franciscans are vaccinated, and 59% of vaccinated residents have been boosted, the highly contagious Omicron-variant is still able to spread as breakthrough infections, often asymptotically or with mild illness. This raises the prospects that frontline workers could become infected and be temporarily unable to work, impacting the City's delivery of essential services.

While hospitalization rates are expected to be lower with Omicron, the sheer number of people getting infected means San Francisco is experiencing increased demand for hospital beds at a time when staff is also contracting the virus because of high community spread.

San Francisco's priority right now is to protect essential services and the most vulnerable populations. SFPDPH is currently conducting about half of all COVID-19 tests in the City and is prioritizing disaster service workers and symptomatic individuals for testing. SFPDPH has also ordered test kits from suppliers to support first responders and the most vulnerable, such as residents and staff of skilled nursing facilities.

Some of the City's other efforts include:

- Expanded hours and additional appointments and drop-ins for vaccinations and boosters at SFPDPH-affiliated and health systems partner sites, including mobile pop-up events at schools and focused efforts on reaching all long-term care facilities and senior housing in San Francisco.
- Coordinating with other healthcare systems across the City to support SFPDPH hospital systems and to further expand testing and vaccine hours.
- Updates to San Francisco's Safer Return Together health order requiring boosters for health care workers and in other high-risk settings, and temporarily suspending the mask exemption for limited settings like offices and gyms to lower the chance of spread among groups of vaccinated people.
- Limiting the number of visitors and requiring on-site testing at skilled nursing facilities.
- New safety protocol at homeless shelters that enable the continuation of services by grouping residents based on COVID-19 status.

With children returning to school after the holiday break, SFDPH reaffirms that schools have been low-risk settings with the proper safety protocols in place and that even with the certainty of additional cases, the mental health and educational impacts on students due to social isolation far outweigh the challenges of in-person learning.

Residents can do many things to protect themselves and their community and lower the level of risk exposure in households. Consider taking additional measures during times of high transmission, such as getting vaccinated/boosted, upgrading masks, working from home if possible, or limiting time spent in crowded, indoor settings.

How to stay safe:

- Have everyone ages 5+ get their COVID-19 vaccine and booster if eligible.
- Anyone who develops symptoms of COVID-19 should isolate themselves and get tested as soon as possible.
- Get tested before travel, upon return, and again 3-5 days later.
- Take advantage of quick and easy home test kits available in pharmacies and stores.
- Outside gatherings are safer than indoor gatherings. Limit the number and size of indoor gatherings.
- Take all precautions, including vaccinations, boosters, and testing when gathering with others without masks – especially with elderly or immunocompromised individuals, and anyone who is unvaccinated or not yet boosted.
- Wear a well-fitted mask indoors and in crowded settings. To best protect yourself, wear an N95 or double mask with a cloth mask over a surgical mask to improve the seal. If possible, avoid wearing only a cloth mask during this surge.
- Unvaccinated adults should avoid travel and gatherings outside their household.
- Wash hands or use hand sanitizer often.
- Layer your defenses, and reduce your household's risk exposure during periods of high transmission, like the current omicron surge.

What to do if you test positive for COVID:

Individuals who test positive, including if they are asymptomatic, should assume they are infected with COVID-19 and take measures to get care and isolate away from others. Additionally, they should notify their healthcare provider about their positive test result and stay in contact with them during their illness. Individuals who do not have a provider or need assistance with isolation can connect with the SFDPH COVID Resource Center at (628) 217-6101.

More information about what to do if you test positive [can be found here](#).

Other COVID-19 resources:

- Isolation and Quarantine guidelines can be found here: <https://www.sfdph.org/dph/COVID-19/Isolation-and-Quarantine.asp>
- For a list of testing sites in San Francisco, go to: sf.gov/gettested
- For a list of vaccination and booster sites in San Francisco, go to: sf.gov/getvaccinated
- More SF COVID data can be found here: sf.gov/resource/2021/covid-19-data-and-reports

DPH Environmental Health Branch responds to unpermitted food vending in Union Square

In late November 2021, it was brought to the attention of the Environmental Health Branch (EHB) that there was a large number of unpermitted food carts operating in the Union Square area. Food carts operating without a permit may be providing unhealthy food to the public which made this issue a health priority. From December 1st through 13th, 2021, EHB sent our bilingual inspectors to provide educational materials and instructions around how to operate legally. After providing outreach and educational materials for two weeks,

EHB pivoted from an education first approach to enforcement. Enforcement has involved issuing citations and impounding the illegal carts. EHB coordinated with the Department of Public Works, who provided a crew/truck for impounding the carts and SFPD who provided security. These taskforce inspections have been occurring every weekend since December 17th, 2021. During this time, EHB has cited and impounded around 10 food carts found to be operating without a permit in this area. Many more unpermitted carts have voluntarily left the area. EHB has also met with staff from the Office of Economic Workforce Development and the Mission Economic Development Agency to discuss possible assistance for helping these vendors operate legally. Going into 2022, EHB will continue to work with these groups and other city partners in trying to find a long term and lasting solution to this public health issue. Terry Hong is the EHB manager in charge of the mobile food program and has done an outstanding job coordinating this project. Thank you, Terry!

[DPH in the News](#)

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

December 2021

Governing Body Report - Credentialing Summary
(12/16/21 MEC)

	12/2021	07/2021 to 07/2022
New Appointments	11	95
Reinstatements	0	0
Reappointments	44	285
Delinquencies:		
Reappointment Denials:		
Resigned/Retired:	17	96
Disciplinary Actions		
Administrative Suspension		
Restriction/Limitation-Privileges		
Deceased		
Changes in Privileges		
Voluntary Relinquishments	8	57
Additions	8	55
Proctorship Completed	9	91

Current Statistics – as of 12/1/21		
Active Staff	551	
Courtesy Staff	640	
Affiliated Professionals (non-physicians)	299	
TOTAL MEMBERS	1,490	

Applications in Process	28
Applications Withdrawn Month of December 2021	0
SFGH Reappointments in Process 1/1/22 to 3/31/22	134

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Bernal thanked Director Colfax for the report.

4) COVID-19 UPDATE

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

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Giraudo noted the new orders requiring that local health care institutions provide COVID-19 testing to their patients within a specific timeframe. She asked how these orders are being enforced. Director Colfax noted that the Mayor put out an order that executes penalties if health care institutions do not follow the health order, which requires the testing. Dr. Susan Philip, San Francisco Health Officer, stated that January 18th is the first day that systems are required to report their testing data. She added that this data will be used in the Mayor's enforcement of her order.

Commissioner Chow asked for an update on the DPH partnership with the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD). Director Colfax stated that the DPH has partnered with the SFUSD since the beginning of the pandemic, providing them guidance and recently provided tests and masks. He added that the DPH has noted that the benefits of in-person classroom experiences outweigh the current risks. Dr. Philip stated that the DPH checks in daily with the SFUSD. She added that earlier in the pandemic, when more contract tracing was being done, the DPH was part of that effort in addition to offering testing and analysis of data to help SFUSD problem-solve to make the schools safer.

Commissioner Chow asked if we are losing anything by the reduction of contact tracing. Dr. Philip stated that the California Department of Public Health Department (CDPH) released new guidance for "group tracing." This paradigm is utilized in classrooms in which someone tests positive. In these cases, everyone stays in the room learning and students continue to test. She reiterated that the DPH continues to encourage vaccinations and booster shots, masking, and adequate ventilation in classrooms.

Commissioner Chow asked for more information regarding how the DPH hospitals are interacting with the CDC guidance which allows medical staff to return to work after 5 days of a positive COVID-19 test. Dr. Susan Ehrlich, ZSFG CEO, stated that the DPH is using ~~measure~~ **policy** a bit more conservative than the CDC or CDPH guidances. ZSFG uses tests to determine when staff who tested positive may return to work; COVID-19 positive staff cannot return to work until they test negative. She added that currently 278 ZSFG staff were out on COVID-19 leave. She also noted that patient discharges are more difficult at this time because many community programs are experiencing outbreaks and issues with staffing due to COVID-19.

5) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

6) FIRST HEARING ON FY 2022-2023 AND FY 2023-2024 DPH BUDGET

Jenny Louie, DPH CFO, presented the item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Bernal thanked Ms. Louie and the DPH Budget team for their work.

Commissioner Guillermo asked for clarification on the goals for "right sizing" core operating functions and whether "Data and Information Systems" is an item related to the public health or administration functions of the DPH. Ms. Louie stated that the DPH Central Administration operations, including contracts, business functions, and data/computer systems, enables all other DPH sections to function. Greg Wagner, DPH COO, stated that DPH Human Resources and contracting are bottlenecks for all other DPH sections. There is effort to improve Human Resources, including hiring more staff, providing better customer service to staff in order to increase retention and decreasing hiring times. Regarding the DPH contracting process, he noted that the number of contracts, and complexity of contracts, has outgrown the contracting system and current staffing levels. He added that data systems are also an issue. There are still several stages of EPIC implementation to

occur in addition to an electronic medical record for behavioral health. He added that the DPH will also be investing in its infrastructure and equipment to ensure sustainability of the Department's business workflow.

Commissioner Green asked how much of a financial impact will the CALAIM program have on the DPH budget. Ms. Louie stated that the CALAIM benefits recently announced are new. Between the DPH and Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, the City has been able to draw down Whole Person Care funds. The DPH is positioned to earn the maximize amount of funds through the new CALAIM benefits. Dr. Claire Horton, San Francisco Health Network Chief Medical Officer, stated that the Network is meeting with the San Francisco Health Plan to strategize about enrolling people who are incarcerated in the county jails into MediCal before they are released.

Commissioner Giraudo thanked Ms. Louie for the clear presentation of a very complex budget.

Commissioner Chow looks forward to reviewing details of the proposed budget in the next presentation.

7) THE DPH WAY TO ACHIEVE ACTIONABLE KNOWLEDGE, ANYTIME, ANYWHERE

Eric Raffin, DPH Chief Information Officer, presented the item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chung is glad to hear that the Lean process is being used for planning data systems and asked if a Trauma Informed Model is also used. Mr. Raffin stated that behavioral health records are usually separated from other health records. Mental Health San Francisco is a catalyst to thoughtfully join our data systems together, to have a longitudinal view of patients' experiences.

Commissioner Chung asked if these data systems will assist the DPH in predicting staff needs for different DPH sections. Mr. Raffin stated that modern Human Resource systems do this type of prediction; this will assist the DPH in understanding staffing trends that will help it more accurately predict staffing issues.

Commissioner Chung noted that the nature of DPH planning must incorporate ad-hoc initiatives from the Mayor or the Board of Supervisors. She asked if the new data systems can pivot to accommodate these quick changes. Mr. Raffin stated that during the pandemic, the DPH has learned that single-source systems are important effective when used with a governance structure.

Commissioner Giraudo requested that Mr. Raffin include specific examples of implementing the process he's described in his next presentation so the Commission can understand how the system has improved the experience for the client, provider, and administration.

Commissioner Guillermo thanked Mr. Raffin for the presentation and expects that it will take time to implement. She noted that the Health Commission needs to better understand the implementation and execution challenges. Mr. Raffin stated that implementation will be phased, and he will report on the phases as they are implemented.

Commissioner Chow asked for a clarification on the remedies to EPIC in response to staff complaints regarding the level of information shared when vaccination information was being entered. Mr. Raffin stated that the only external health-related information that will be available in EPIC will include vaccination and allergy data. He added that this is an OSHA standard because it work-related. Mr. Wagner noted that the EPIC changes were made in response to staff complaints made at a previous Health Commission meeting.

8) RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE AMOUNT AND REPLENISHMENT OF THE ZUCKERBERG SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL HOSPITAL PATIENT TRUST FUND

Alex Koskinen, DPH Business Office, presented the item.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the resolution. (See Attachment)

9) OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Giraudo noted that she has already ordered her COVID-19 tests from the federal government and the Post Office already sent a confirmation for the order.

10) COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Commissioner Giraudo, Chair, stated that he committee discussed two presentations. The first was a Primary Care Update. She noted that 20% of the population of San Francisco received their vaccinations through the San Francisco Health Network Primary Care clinics; this included homebound vaccinations too. The priorities of this section for the upcoming year are equity, population health, access-to-care, and supporting recovery and resilience in the primary care teams.

The second presentation topic was on San Francisco Retail Tobacco Permit and Reinforcement activities. Tobacco permit density decreased from 923 to 621 permits. Commissioner Giraudo noted that presenters stated that labeling of flavored tobacco products remains challenging. The DPH is partnering with the San Francisco Unified School District and other organizations on a anti-vaping art campaign contest for youth participation.

11) JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Guillermo, LHH JCC Chair, stated that at the January 11, 2022 meeting, the committee reviewed the Executive Staff Report and a COVID Surge presentation. She noted that the protective procedures put in place at LHH have held up and there has been minimal exposure to LHH residents. Visitation has shifted, along with other changes in protocols, to decrease cases in an effort to protect the workforce and residents. The Committee also reviewed the November and December Regulatory Affairs reports. In closed session, the Committee approved the Credentials report and reviewed the PIPS report and Medical Quality Improvement reports.

12) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:13pm.

**HEALTH COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
RESOLUTION NO. 22-03**

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE AMOUNT AND REPLENISHMENT OF THE ZUCKERBERG SAN FRANCISCO
GENERAL HOSPITAL PATIENT TRUST FUND.**

WHEREAS, The Department of Public Health provides for the distribution of funds for mental health resident patients who do not have any funds of their own; and

WHEREAS, The funds are distributed from the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital Patient Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Public Health requests that the Health Commission authorize the Department of Public Health to maintain the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital Patient Trust Fund account at \$15,000; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Public Health requests that the Health Commission authorize the automatic replenishment of the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital Patient Trust Fund to the maintenance level of \$15,000 when the funds have been depleted to a level of \$2,000; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Public Health adheres to the San Francisco Administrative Code Section 10.100-215 in the maintenance of the Patient Trust Fund; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Health Commission authorizes the Department of Public Health to automatically replenish the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital Patient Trust Fund to the level of \$15,000 when the funds have been depleted to a level of \$2,000; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the maintenance of the fund will be consistent with San Francisco Administrative Code Sections governing the Public Health San Francisco General Hospital Trust Fund, including San Francisco Administrative Code Section 10.100-215.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting on January 18, 2022, adopted the foregoing resolution.

Mark Morewitz, MSW
Health Commission Executive Secretary