



## 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 16, 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.*

### **DISEASE SURVEILLANCE USING WASTEWATER**

Wastewater surveillance is a relatively new method of monitoring disease trends that began during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since COVID-19 was the first virus to be tracked in this way, scientists understand how to interpret wastewater data for COVID-19 better than for the pathogens that have been subsequently added. Wastewater data for COVID-19 has been shown to correlate well with trends in the community—when COVID-19 wastewater detections increase, we know that means COVID-19 infections are rising, and vice versa. There is some variability in the data from day to day, so it is important to see the data as trends over time rather than place significance on any single data point. DPH partners with the California Department of Public Health, WastewaterSCAN, and other local health departments to interpret and understand wastewater surveillance data as the science evolves.

There are several websites that show wastewater surveillance data:

- WastewaterSCAN Dashboard (currently shows COVID-19, flu, RSV, mpox, and other pathogens) [data.wastewaterscan.org](https://data.wastewaterscan.org)
- California Wastewater Surveillance Network Dashboard (currently shows COVID-19 only) [www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/CalSuWers-Dashboard.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/CalSuWers-Dashboard.aspx)
- National Wastewater Surveillance System (currently shows COVID-19, flu, and mpox) [www.cdc.gov/nwss](https://www.cdc.gov/nwss)



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San Francisco has two sewersheds, Southeast and Oceanside, so the wastewater data must be viewed one sewershed at a time. The Southeast sewershed receives wastewater from the majority of the residents, commuters, and visitors to the city.

### **ZSFG HOSPITAL AND NURSING CARE CENTER FULLY ACCREDITED BY JCC**

The Joint Commission has now fully accredited ZSFG Hospital and Nursing Care Center for another three years after completing a survey on campus in February. During their visit earlier this year, the survey team was very complimentary of the care and services they observed including the 4A Skilled Nursing team, who impressed the surveyor with their compassionate care; the Kitchen team for cleanliness; the Emergency Management program for being “rock solid”; and Facilities Services for cleanliness of the utility rooms. They also called out ZSFG’s exceptional work promoting diversity, equity and inclusion. Congratulations to the entire ZSFG team for their work toward this achievement.

### **ZSFG WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE TEAM MEMBERS**

This month, ZSFG welcomed three new members to the Executive Team to continue fostering the partnership between ZSFG and UCSF through the Vice Dean of the School of Medicine. Please join us in welcoming Jeff Critchfield, MD; Mary Mercer, MD, MPH; and Laurae Pearson.

Jeff has taken on the role of Interim Vice Dean where he will lead the team in creating innovative programs and training the next generation of providers, further strengthening the partnership between UCSF and the City and County of San Francisco.

Mary Mercer will serve in the Chief of Staff role, contributing to key quality and safety initiatives across ZSFG.

Laurae Pearson will fill the role as the Associate Dean of Administration and Finance, working with her team to assess processes that support UCSF at ZSFG.



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### **DPH STAFF ACCEPTED INTO AMERICA'S ESSENTIAL HOSPITALS FELLOWS CLASS OF 2024-2025**

America's Essential Hospitals recently welcomed the largest class in the 36-year history of its Fellows Program: 50 rising leaders from 27 essential hospitals will explore best practices in leadership, diversity and inclusion, policymaking, and other topics. Two of those leaders are from the DPH SF Health Network (SFHN): Angelica Journagin, Chief Administrative Officer at ZSFG and Nader Hammoud, Vice President of Support Services in Central SFHN Administration.

Designed for senior clinical and administrative personnel, this Fellowship has produced more than 750 alumni, including CEOs, other hospital executives, and national health care thought leaders. The program, established in 1988, provides strategic leadership and advocacy training to help member hospitals develop and inspire their high-potential staff.

### **POWER TO HEAL: MEDICARE AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS REVOLUTION**

DPH employees and community members recently attended two free screenings of the documentary "Power to Heal: Medicare and the Civil Rights Revolution." Presented by the California Physicians Alliance. The film educates viewers on the historic struggle for equitable health care access. Through learning partnerships like this, the DPH Office of Health Equity continues to develop ways to incorporate health equity into our department's daily practices.

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

As of 06/11:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 11.1%.
- Thirty-three percent of SF residents are fully up to date on their COVID vaccinations and have received the updated vaccine.