



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 August 6, 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 RESUMES ADMISSIONS AND WELCOMES BACK FORMER RESIDENTS

Laguna Honda Hospital has resumed admissions and began welcoming home former residents who were moved out of the facility during the recertification process.

Last month, Laguna Honda received full certification with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) after a successful two-year improvement process. Recertification restored funding for resident care and allowed Laguna Honda, which accounts for more than 30% of all skilled nursing beds in San Francisco, to resume admissions.

Laguna Honda is beginning the admissions process by welcoming back former residents who were transferred to other facilities at the direction of CMS. All former residents have been contacted and several have opted to return to Laguna Honda. New admissions will resume in the coming weeks for other San Franciscans in-need of skilled nursing care who meet Laguna Honda's criteria for care.

Laguna Honda represents a significant and extensive commitment by San Francisco towards publicly-funded skilled nursing care for those with limited means. Laguna Honda provides safety net healthcare services to hundreds of the City's most vulnerable individuals with complex medical and care needs.



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Over the past six months, teams at Laguna Honda have prepared to resume new admissions, including a thorough review of all admissions policies and procedures, ensuring they are aligned with skilled nursing best practices.

To ensure the significant changes and improvements made over the past two years are sustained, Laguna Honda admissions are resuming deliberately and methodically. This includes regular check-ins for evaluation and audits of each new admission.

DPH, ENTERTAINMENT COMMISSION AND DRAG ARTISTS SAVE LIVES BY GETTING UP IN THE CLUB

DPH and the Entertainment Commission, along with drag artists, will partner this August to increase overdose awareness, share vital information on how to detect and respond to an overdose, and provide lifesaving Naloxone trainings to San Francisco's nightlife, entertainment, and LGBTQ+ and African-American communities.

This partnership coincides with Overdose Awareness Week and International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) on August 31st. The two agencies have partnered since 2022 to host overdose prevention trainings at nightlife venues and to produce [an instructional video](#) and other content on how to access and administer naloxone, as well how to use fentanyl testing strips.

In August 2023, DPH and the Entertainment Commission partnered with Bay Area Drag Queen Kochina Rude to pilot outreach events at Oasis and El Rio to raise awareness on overdoses and educate the nightlife community on ways people can prevent an overdose. In 2024, the campaign will continue to advance this work through its partnership with Kochina Rude and will join forces with Drag Queen Nicki Jizz, a BIPOC artist and overdose prevention advocate.

More than 75% of the overdose deaths in San Francisco are a result of fentanyl, which is 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times stronger than heroin. Naloxone, a life-saving medication used to reverse an opioid overdose, is one tool to help prevent a deadly overdose. Fentanyl test strips also allow users to test their drugs to determine if fentanyl is present.



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Since January 2023, DPH has distributed more than 300 Naloxone kits to nightlife venues and provided in-person training to more than 200 individuals. In 2024, DPH distributed 1,200 fentanyl testing strips to six different venues across the city.

International Overdose Awareness Day – held on August 31st – is the world’s largest annual campaign to end overdose, remember without stigma those who have died, and acknowledge the grief of family and friends left behind.

In an effort to heighten the awareness around overdose, a number of events throughout the month of August are scheduled, including:

Thursday, Aug 1, 10pm-12:30am

Beaux – “Queer Pop”

Hosted by Nicki Jizz

2344 Market Street

<https://www.beauxsf.com/>

Nicki Jizz, current winner of Drag Queen of the Year pageant, voted 4-time Best Drag Queen of the Bay Area, will be providing Naloxone and fentanyl testing strip training, as well as other overdose awareness resources.

Friday, Aug 9, 10pm –2am

Oasis – “Reparations: An All-Black Drag Show and Dance Party”

Hosted by Nicki Jizz

298 11th Street

<https://www.sfoasis.com/reparations>

Nicki Jizz, current winner of Drag Queen of the Year pageant, voted four-time Best Drag Queen of the Bay Area, will be providing Naloxone and fentanyl testing strip training, as well as other overdose awareness resources.

Saturday, August 10, 10pm –2am

Oasis – “Princess: A Disco-Pop Dance Party and Drag Spectacular”

Hosted by Kochina Rude

298 11th Street

<https://www.sfoasis.com/princess>



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Kochina Rude, known for her do-it-yourself hard femme style, is a Chicano drag queen, vocalist, and emcee born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. She is a harm reduction advocate, providing overdose prevention trainings and Naloxone distribution to partygoers at SF Oasis every weekend.

Saturday, August 31, 9pm-2am (International Overdose Awareness Day)

Beaux – “US: Celebrating BIPOC Excellence in LGBTQIA Nightlife”

Hosted by Mercedes Munro.

Training provided by Nicki Jizz.

2344 Market Street

<https://www.beauxsf.com/>

Nicki Jizz, current winner of Drag Queen of the Year pageant, voted 4-time Best Drag Queen of the Bay Area, will be providing Naloxone and fentanyl test strip training, as well as other overdose awareness resources.

For more information and overdose resources, visit: <https://sf.gov/overdose-prevention-nightlife>

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES RECEIVES AWARDS FROM NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

DPH Behavioral Health Services (BHS) was nationally recognized with two awards granted by the National Association of Counties. The BHS programs recognized are the Office of Coordinated Care and the Bridge and Engagement Services Team (BEST) Neighborhoods program. Both programs were recognized as outstanding innovative county government programs and services that improve access to behavioral health services for its residents. Congratulations to our teams!

ZSFG CELEBRATES AVON BREAST CENTER’S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

The AVON Breast Center at ZSFG held a celebration on July 23rd to honor the incredible staff who, 20 years ago, had the vision to create a center that provided the best experience and most current technology to patients, regardless of their ability to pay, their gender, or immigration status. In addition to celebrating patients at the center, the event also paid tribute to all the ZSFG radiologists, technologists, navigators, medical assistants, schedulers, oncologists, and surgeons who ensure that patients receive comprehensive support from testing to diagnosis and treatment.



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Every year at the Avon Breast Center, staff perform as many as 10,000 exams. Comprehensive services include breast imaging, evaluation, and treatment, as well as those that go far beyond these essential services. Genetic counseling and testing, culturally sensitive research, education, navigation, and support to advance breast cancer control for underserved people in our community is also provided. The Center is one of the first all-digital breast centers in the Bay Area and is designed for comfort and privacy, equipped with state-of-the-art imaging technology and diagnostic equipment.

At the event, Mary McGinty, Director of Imaging and Pathology at ZSFG, hosted a moving speaking program in the Center's Serenity Garden that included Dr. Grant Colfax, ZSFG Chief of Radiology Mark Wilson, MD; Lori Strachowski, MD, radiologist and AVON Breast Center co-founder; and Chief of Breast Imaging Bonnie Joe, MD in addition to a longtime patient. The event concluded with tours to patients and the public. Congratulations to the AVON Breast Imaging Center for delivering 20 years of excellent patient care.

DPH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS STAFF PARTICIPATES IN COMPETITIVE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM

DPH's Amy Ovadia recently completed the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security's (CHDS) Emergence Program. Amy currently serves as the Department of Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch's Healthcare Planning Lead in the Population Health Division. She applied for and was selected to this highly competitive program comprised of rising stars from across the Homeland Security Enterprise. As one of the few public health staff chosen to participate in this program, Amy sought to both better understand the public safety component of the enterprise as well as serve as an ambassador for health to her colleagues in the cohort as they shared ideas and discussed current challenges and threats. As a part of the program, participants learn how to navigate the government system, think critically about their work, and manage change for improvement initiatives.

The press release from CHDS highlighting Amy can be found here:

<https://www.chds.us/c/emergence-2302-graduation/>



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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LEADERS PROMOTE CAREERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH

In October 2018, the Mayor's Office launched the Opportunities for All (OFA) program. The program is designed to address economic inequality by ensuring that all young people can be a part of the San Francisco economy. The program includes thousands of paid internships and mentorships for participants ages 13 to 24. The Environmental Health Branch has hosted internships in the past through OFA, one of which went on to be selected to fill a Public Service Aide vacancy. This month, the OFA program sponsored two Public Sector panel sessions at the Emporium Centre San Francisco titled Learn 2 Earn. The Environmental Health Branch had participants from the Healthy Housing Program, Hazardous Materials and Waste Program, Food Program, and Weights & Measures/Agricultural Program. Over 100 young people participated in each session and heard about the important work these programs do every day. The goal was to allow the participants to see themselves in the careers of the panelists. We are hopeful that in the future, some of these young people may decide to pursue a career in public health.

6M PEDIATRIC ASTHMA & ALLERGY CLINIC

The Pediatric Asthma and Allergy Clinic (PAAC) at ZSFG's 6M Children's Health Center celebrated 25 years of care to the pediatric community in July. As the only pediatric asthma clinic within DPH, the PAAC sees more than 700 children annually and conducts nearly all home evaluations for children with asthma within the referral network. They provide comprehensive clinic management including spirometry, allergy skin testing, and food allergy evaluation.

Aimed at addressing vital social determinants of health for children with asthma, the PAAC offers wraparound care, including behavioral health, nutrition support, and specialized asthma education through a unique model of care which pairs patients up with a Community Health Worker who offers clinic and home visits, education and case management.

Over the past two decades, the clinic's community health workers emerged as program champions, building community trust through educational workshops for foster parents, schools and public health nurses. The PAAC's comprehensive model has earned national awards including The US Environmental Protection Agency's 2018 National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management and the 2007 Ambulatory Pediatric Association Health Care Delivery Award from San Francisco Health Plan. Congratulations to the Pediatric Asthma & Allergy Clinic team for a great 25 years.



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COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 07/31:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 6.0%.
- Thirty-three percent of SF residents are fully up to date on their COVID vaccinations and have received the updated vaccine.