



## 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 December 17, 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.*

### **PUBLIC HEALTH, HEALTH NETWORK & ZSFG TEAMS RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS EQUITY AWARDS**

A multidisciplinary team from DPH, the San Francisco Health Network and ZSFG Hospital received two prestigious equity awards in December recognizing their innovative efforts to deliver high-quality, equitable care for heart failure patients, with a focus on addressing social and behavioral needs of Black/African Americans.

The team received the 2024 Bernard J. Tyson National Award for Excellence in Pursuit of Healthcare Equity from The Joint Commission and Kaiser Permanente and the 2024 Quality Leader Award from the California Association of Public Hospitals & Health Systems and California Health Care Safety Net Institute. These honors recognize innovative initiatives, such as integrating AI-driven tools in electronic health records that provide recommendations about medical and social care and establishing an addiction medicine/cardiology co-management clinic that combined primary care, cardiology, social medicine, addiction medicine, and palliative care. Results of this work included eliminating the gap in readmission rates for Black/African American patients, reducing readmission rates by 13%, and lowering mortality risk by more than 6%. DPH is honored by these achievements, which reflect the strength of the entire city's public healthcare system and our commitment to equity in healthcare.



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### **DPH, ZSFG & GENERAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION COHOST ADDICTION CARE SYMPOSIUM SUPPORTING RN EDUCATION**

More than 200 nursing and other staff from DPH attended an all-day Addiction Care Symposium in ZSFG's Carr Auditorium on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The event focused on helping staff address substance use disorders. The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual symposium offered participants valuable insights into best practices in opioid and stimulant use disorder treatment, communicating with patients effectively, alcohol withdrawal, and the Addiction Care Team Nurse Liaison Program.

Participants also heard from ZSFG Addiction Care Team staff about their services and overdose prevention as well as future educational opportunities. This included the Center for Innovative Academic Detailing on Opioids and Stimulants (CIAO), which is a DPH program that offers ZSFG staff and providers across San Francisco one-on-one counseling sessions on opioid and stimulant use disorder management, buprenorphine prescribing, controlled substance monitoring, and other evidence-based practices.

Attendees were eligible for six hours of continuing education credit while advancing how they deliver compassionate and evidence-based nursing care for individuals living with substance use disorders.

### **STAFF RECEIVE AWARDS FROM DPH PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE BRANCH**

Two Environmental Health Branch employees recently received awards from the DPH Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch. One employee was Principal Inspector Mary Freschet, who received the Emergency Planning Award for her work during the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). APEC was a National Special Security Event and Mary worked with her counterparts in the FDA and Homeland Security beginning months before the event to ensure food safety. This work included coordinating staff across five food service events. Staff were required to monitor food preparation from the time the food entered the event until it was served. Due to her outstanding work, there were no foodborne illnesses or food related issues at any of the APEC events.

The other employee honored with the Emergency Responder of the Year Award was Jonathan Piakis. Jonathan is a Certified Industrial Hygienist who is one of the managers assigned to the



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Hazardous Materials Program and supervises the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team. The Emergency Response Team provides 24/7 response to any hazardous materials incident in San Francisco. Jonathan has managed many incidents and prepared the first Fentanyl response protocols in San Francisco with his guidance being duplicated throughout the State. In addition, he participated in the APEC and Super Bowl national security events and coordinated with his counterparts in Homeland Security and the FBI.

Congratulations to our Environmental Health staff on this recognition.

### **NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM CELEBRATES FALL GRADUATES**

A total of 16 families were celebrated recently after successfully completing Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health's Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) program.

NFP provides services to some of the most vulnerable babies and first-time parents from pregnancy until the child is 2 years old. Families are supported by a Public Health Nurse, who provides personalized information on topics such as prenatal care, signs of postpartum depression, child development, and breastfeeding.

This year's ceremony featured a former NFP graduate who shared how she was able to transition to a career as a doula and help start Birth Companions Community Center because of the help and inspiration of her Public Health Nurse and the NFP program. Congratulations to all of our new graduates and their Public Health Nurses!

### **SF HEALTH NETWORK PROVIDING CUTTING-EDGE HIV+ CARE**

As we commemorated World AIDS Day on December 1, we also reflected on the incredible strides that have been made towards managing this disease. In 2024, our SF Health Network (SFHN) HIV Health Services team reports that more than 450 HIV-positive patients received the latest in long-acting injectable HIV antiretroviral therapy (ART) across 10 SFHN medical sites. The once-every-two-months shot ensures treatment for those who either cannot or prefer not to take daily medications. Of those patients, 60% identify as people of color, 98.5% had undetectable viral loads, and 87% were timely with their injection schedule.



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SFHN's Ward 86 at ZSFG Hospital performed the first-in-the-nation demonstration project showing the promise for Injectable ART use among people living with HIV. We are proud to be able to provide our patients the cutting-edge care that meets them where they are.

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

As of 12/12:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 1.0%.
- Twenty-five percent of SF residents are fully up to date on their COVID vaccinations and have received the updated vaccine.