



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 May 3, 2022

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

<https://www.dph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/insideDept/dirRpts/default.asp>

Today, there are over 127,800 San Francisco residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19. And, sadly, a total of 862 San Franciscans have died. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) sends our condolences to their loved ones.

SAN FRANCISCANS SHOULD TAKE BASIC ACTIONS TO BE PREPARED FOR FUTURE CHANGES IN COVID-19

As COVID-19 case rates slowly rise but remain relatively low and [hospitalizations remain low](#), now is the ideal time for San Franciscans to prepare for changes in the virus by taking basic actions that can protect themselves, their families, and their community.

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) [urges people to be ready for COVID](#):

- Stay up to date on your vaccinations – including the primary series and boosters, when eligible
- Know how to reach a doctor, especially if you are at high risk for severe illness.
- Keep a supply of rapid COVID-19 over-the-counter antigen test kits on hand.
- Keep masks handy with well-fitted N95/KN95s, or cloth over surgical masks.
- Plan ahead for a possible infection. You may need an isolation plan, a child-care plan, or a work plan.
- Stay informed with trusted sources of information, such as: [SF.gov/covid](https://www.sfgov.gov/covid)

New tools to fight the virus, like [COVID-19 medicines](#), are available for people at high risk for severe illness but must be taken very soon after infection and need a prescription.

San Franciscans without health insurance or a doctor can access medical care and resources for COVID-19 through the [San Francisco Health Network](#) and community partners. To address health inequities, SFDPH is targeting COVID-19 resources toward highly impacted communities and where test positivity rates are higher, including vaccination and testing sites and distribution of masks and over-the-counter test kits, among other efforts.

San Francisco has one of the highest vaccination rates in the country, with 84% of the total population vaccinated and 74 % of eligible people 12 and older boosted – demonstrating that our communities can take simple steps to build our City's resilience to the virus.

For general information about San Francisco's COVID resources, visit: [SF.gov/covid](https://www.sfgov.gov/covid). Or call the



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City's COVID Resource Center (CRC) at: 628-652-2700.

To learn more about how to prepare for COVID, go to: [SF.gov/be-covid-ready](https://sf.gov/be-covid-ready)

100 DAYS OF TLC

On Wednesday, April 28th, DPH celebrated 100 days of the TLC. On January 18, during the last COVID-19 surge, a DPH team, under the Department of Emergency Management's leadership and working in concert other City departments, quickly and ably responded to another emergency declaration, this time about the crisis of overdoses in the Tenderloin. Together, we opened the Tenderloin Linkage Center.

Almost overnight, the "TLC" went from an empty office building on Market Street to a safe, welcoming space for many of the most vulnerable people in San Francisco. TLC staff and provider partners have reversed 67 overdoses at the TLC, and people picking up naloxone from the TLC have used hundreds of doses in the community. Every day, the TLC is saving lives.

As of the week of April 25th, the TLC is surpassing 35,000 visits, many of them repeat visitors, and is averaging more than 400 people per day, 7 days a week. Last week the center had a day with 500 visitors. More information on the progress can be [found here](#).

Clearly, the TLC has become is a popular spot where people are getting their needs met. People report feeling a sense of safety, restored dignity, stability, acceptance, privacy from the public view, and hope for the future. This lays the foundation for future changes in their lives.

We celebrated Day 100 with a name change to *Tenderloin Center*, reflecting the wide variety of services that the TLC provides, and what people come for—that is, helping put people on a path toward wellness.

DPH AT THE 2022 BAY AREA SCIENCE FESTIVAL

DPH's Environmental Health Branch (EHB) has a history of introducing young people to the field of environmental health through participating in internship programs like Youth Works, FACES and Opportunities for All. On April 24th, EHB staff participated in the 2022 Bay Area Science Festival at Oracle Park. Staff worked with members of the Department of Homeland Security and SF Unified School District to developed an online science scavenger hunt competition for SF high school students. The challenge began with 50 persons attending a Zoom webinar lead by a Homeland Security forensic scientist about the work that goes into authenticating honey. Over 90 students signed up to participate in this scavenger hunt where they were provided 20 questions about Honey Authentication and submitted their answers online. This competition was one of the activities leading up to and tying in with the 2022 Bay Area Science Festival. Over 500 people came by the EHB booth to taste-test and see if they could tell difference between real vs. fake honey. EHB staff



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participating were Celina Ayala, Cynthia Melgoza, Janine Young, Jewel Jo and Seretha Brewer. Thank you for their engagement with our city's future scientists!

LAGUNA HONDA HOSPITAL AND REHABILITATION CENTER

Despite significant improvements and efforts to comply with federal and state regulators, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently terminated Laguna Honda's participation in the Medicare and Medicaid program. Participation in this program is how we fund the majority of Laguna Honda patient care.

We have initiated several strategies to ensure Laguna Honda is recertified in the Medicare and Medicaid program, including launching an Incident Command structure; deploying additional staff to Laguna Honda; and retaining outside experts who will help us successfully guide the hospital through the recertification process. We are confident that these strategies and the team we have put together will see Laguna Honda through this current challenge and that the hospital will come out stronger than ever.

[DPH in the News](#)