



## 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 November 1, 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 180,000 San Francisco residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19. And, sadly, a total of 1,058 San Franciscans have died. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) sends our condolences to their loved ones.*

### **SAN FRANCISCO ENDS PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ON MPX**

DPH ended the public health emergency declaration on MPX on October 31. MPX cases have slowed to less than one case per day and more than 27,000 San Franciscans are now vaccinated against the virus.

Additionally, DPH advanced its public health response to other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) by issuing the first guidance in the nation on how to use doxycycline, a common antibiotic, to prevent infections of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis. These types of bacterial STIs are also of public health concern, and rates have risen in recent years within communities of gay and bisexual men, trans people and others who also have been most affected by MPX.

The public health emergency declaration on MPX, the first of its kind in the nation, served its purpose to reflect the immediate urgency of the MPX threat to the health of those most affected in the gay, bisexual and trans communities. It also gave public health officials tools, such as collection of critical data, needed to respond effectively.

The overwhelming community support and advocacy for critical resources such as vaccines from the federal government, coupled with early and strong action, drove San Francisco's successful public health response and enabled the city to reach this milestone. First and foremost were San Franciscans themselves, who have been exceedingly proactive about their health and have sought out vaccines and taken other steps to become informed and protect themselves and others. DPH and community partners directed resources toward people most impacted by MPX in the gay, bisexual, and trans communities, and with a goal of lowering health disparities and barriers to care. While much has been accomplished in the nearly three months of the emergency declaration, it is important to note that MPX is still circulating in communities and remains a public health concern. The work must continue.



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San Franciscans should continue to do their part by getting vaccinated against MPX if they are eligible and, critically, completing the two-dose Jynneos series; maximum protection against the virus occurs only after the vaccine series is completed. If there are concerns about receiving an intradermal injection on the forearm, the vaccine can be administered in ways that are less visibly noticeable, for example on the back.

DPH will continue efforts to prevent MPX by focusing public health resources where they can be most effective, and by addressing health disparities in BIPOC communities. DPH will also remain vigilant in responding to outbreaks as needed, monitoring disease trends, and keeping the community informed when new issues arise that require a public health response. Health systems, community clinics such as SF City Clinic and Strut, and DPH-affiliated sites will continue to offer vaccines, tests and other MPX resources.

### *New tool to prevent STIs*

DPH also encourages people to be generally proactive about sexual health screenings, as other infections like syphilis can present similarly to MPX and also require medical care. New tools to prevent disease, such as doxycycline post-exposure prophylaxis (doxy-PEP), should also be considered when appropriate.

A recent [clinical trial](#) conducted by DPH, UCSF, and University of Washington researchers found that a single dose of doxy-PEP taken within 72 hours after sex (oral, anal, or vaginal) significantly reduced infections of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis. Doxy-PEP is the first biomedical prevention drug that has been shown to be effective and well-tolerated to reduce these infections.

In particular, doxy-PEP holds promise to decrease rates of syphilis in San Francisco, which are among the highest in the country. Syphilis is also the STI with the highest potential for severe disease, particularly involving the eyes and nervous system.

DPH's new guidance is for doxy-PEP to be used among cis men and trans women who have had a bacterial STI in the past year and have reported condomless anal or oral sexual contact with at least one cis male or trans female partner in the past year. The guidance also recommends that anyone with a history of syphilis receive doxy-PEP. DPH will continue to support and participate in research that promotes the sexual health of the communities we serve.

### *Resources:*

More information about MPX in San Francisco can be found here: [sf.gov/mpx](https://sf.gov/mpx)



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More information about doxy-PEP can be found here:

[www.sfcityclinic.org/providers/guidelines/hiv-and-sti-prevention](http://www.sfcityclinic.org/providers/guidelines/hiv-and-sti-prevention)

### **50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHINATOWN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

DPH celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Chinatown Child Development Center (CCDC), a behavioral health clinic in the heart of Chinatown. The center has served the social and emotional needs of children and families throughout Chinatown and the City since 1972.

DPH established CCDC to serve children, youth, and their families in San Francisco by providing comprehensive mental health services which are easily accessible and linguistically and culturally appropriate. At CCDC, patients can access mental health services such as individual and group counseling, case management, medication support, psychological evaluations, psychiatry, support groups, and parenting education workshops. The program serves children and families who are residents of San Francisco who have Medi-Cal, Healthy Kids Healthy Families, or no insurance coverage.

As part of DPH's capital improvement program, CCDC will relocate to the Chinatown Public Health Center at 1490 Mason Street after the completion of its seismic upgrades and modernization renovation. The relocation will allow for culturally and linguistically appropriate medical services, mental health services, and dental services to be provided in one building to increase access of comprehensive care for the Chinatown community.

CCDC fully integrates a comprehensive behavioral health service model for all eligible San Francisco residents with a focus on Asian American communities. These are provided via a multidisciplinary team of health providers who speak English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Tagalog, Vietnamese and other languages and dialects when requested.

CCDC mostly serves youth between the ages of 5 and 17 from the Chinatown neighborhood. Additionally, 95% of patients are Asian American, 56% speak Cantonese, 8% speak Vietnamese, and 6% speak Mandarin.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought a rise in anti-Asian hate crimes that drastically increased in California by 107% in 2020. Asian American youth who experienced racism firsthand are 30% more likely to be concerned about their family and 30% more likely to experience depression than their peers. During this time, CCDC drastically increased their outreach to the Asian American community



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as well as collaborated with primary care providers and school-based services to improve access to mental health services.

CCDC also works hand-in-hand with community members to develop deep trust with patients to address the stigma sometimes associated with accessing mental health services. Through ongoing educational awareness trainings as well as robust language services, CCDC creates a supportive environment to overcome these challenges.

### **CODE LAVENDER LAUNCHES AT ZSFG**

Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital launched Code Lavender in partnership with Sojourn Chaplaincy and the SFGH Foundation. Code Lavender is a crisis intervention tool that healthcare workers at ZSFG can now call when incidents that impact staff wellness occur. Incidents such as a patient death, a severe injury, a trauma or workplace violence can make it difficult for healthcare workers to return to work and return to center emotionally. Staff can feel isolated or emotionally compromised after these events. When staff calls a Code Lavender, a team responds with stress diffusing mechanisms, one-on-one support, wellness resources, and next steps and referrals. Code Lavender is currently piloting expanded hours in the ICU and Emergency Department. ZSFG's Sojourn Chaplaincy just celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, having started serving patients with AIDS and HIV in the earliest days of the epidemic. The team has been an essential resource for patients and staff throughout the hospital since that time. DPH has deep gratitude for this latest innovation on behalf of the ZSFG staff.

### **UNITING FOR UKRAINE PROGRAM**

DPH partners from the Community Health Equity & Promotion Branch's Newcomers Health Program, the San Francisco Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program, and the SF Health Network are collaborating to welcome and support newly arrived Ukrainians in San Francisco who have fled their country due to the ongoing war. Many Ukrainians are joining sponsors to stay in the US temporarily under the US [Uniting for Ukraine Program](#), which entitles them to employment authorization and MediCal coverage to ensure good health and well-being after suffering extreme circumstances and having to leave their homes.

Since the [Uniting for Ukraine Program](#), started in April our DPH team has supported over 240 Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees from ages 4 months to 86 years of age. It is indeed a collective effort. Big shout-outs to the staff on these teams for your warm welcome and patient-centered care!



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If you have questions or know someone newly arrived from Ukraine, please call Newcomers Health Program for info and support: 628-206-8608 [Newcomers.Health@sfdph.org](mailto:Newcomers.Health@sfdph.org) or [Referral Form](#).

## SF HEALTH NETWORK WEBPAGE MIGRATION

The [SF Health Network webpages](#) are moving to sf.gov. Sf.gov is user-centered, accessible, translated, secure and hosted by the City and County of SF. It allows us to meet the [Digital Accessibility and Inclusion standards](#), which is a requirement of all City-run webpages. The move plan for all DPH webpages is active with a target completion date of FY2023-24.

## DPH TRAUMA INFORMED SYSTEMS TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

On November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:30am, DPH staff are invited to attend an Intro to Mindfulness training from Jenee Johnson, Program Innovation Leader. Find out more by visiting the Eventbrite link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/387671113737>

## MPX UPDATE

| LOCATION      | TOTAL CASES AS OF 10/22/22<br>(probable and confirmed) |
|---------------|--|
| San Francisco | 832  |
| California    | 5,372  |
| U.S.          | 28,244   |
| Worldwide     | 76,713   |

## COVID-19 UPDATE

As of October 19:

- San Francisco’s 7-day rolling average of new COVID cases per day is 74 and 36 people are hospitalized, including 4 in the ICU.
- San Francisco’s remaining ICU capacity is 34.6% and remaining non-ICU capacity is 17.1%.
- Eighty-six percent of all SF residents have been vaccinated and 75% have received booster dose(s).



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### [DPH in the News](#)