



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 March 7, 2023

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 194,835 San Francisco residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19. And, sadly, a total of 1,163 San Franciscans have died. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) sends our condolences to their loved ones.

SF COVID HEALTH ORDERS RESCINDED AND ISSUED TO ALIGN WITH END OF LOCAL, STATE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

The COVID-19 local public health emergency ended on February 28, along with several health orders, including Health Officer Order No. C19-07y, "Safer Return Together". State masking requirements will continue to supersede local health orders, if the state is more restrictive. The Health Officer issued two new orders that affect hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and other healthcare and jail settings in the event the state rescinds their current health orders or makes them less restrictive.

Under the first order, staff in the above referenced settings are still required to wear a mask when interacting with patients, clients, or people who are incarcerated. Masking requirements for the general public in these settings will end. In addition, masking requirements in homeless shelters for both the general public and staff will end. Those who operate these facilities can decide to be more restrictive than local health guidelines and may still implement their own requirements.

DPH will be monitoring the ongoing national discussions about COVID-19 vaccination schedules and will reevaluate local vaccination requirements once federal and state recommendations are made.

LEGISLATION TO ALLOW PRIVATELY-FUNDED OVERDOSE PREVENTION SITES TO OPEN APPROVED BY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved legislation introduced by Mayor London Breed and Supervisor Hillary Ronen that opens the door for non-profits to operate drug overdose prevention sites in San Francisco with private funding. The vote removes a recently identified



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permitting barrier to moving forward with a non-city funded overdose prevention program while the City waits for federal guidance on whether it can fund such programs with public dollars.

While federal and state legal issues on publicly funded overdose prevention sites in San Francisco are yet to be resolved, the City has continued conversations with leading non-profits around opening a privately funded site. As part of this process, the City identified a significant issue to be addressed for a privately funded site to move forward. To address this issue, Mayor Breed and Supervisor Ronen introduced legislation last month to repeal the 2020 permitting structure; the Mayor asked President Peskin to expedite the ordinance so that the City could adopt it as soon as possible.

In 2020, the Board of Supervisors approved legislation establishing a permitting structure for city-funded overdose prevention programs. This law as written did not allow for any overdose prevention program to open until the State authorized the City to do so, whether it's funded by the City or by private resources. Since that law was enacted, non-profits in New York have opened overdose prevention sites without public funding, and various non-profits in San Francisco have expressed interest in doing the same. San Francisco's current law would not allow them to do so.

San Francisco will continue to move forward innovative solutions to help people struggling with substance use disorder and further reduce the number of fatal overdoses as part of the City's comprehensive overdose prevention plan. The plan includes expanding access to substance use treatment and services, such as recovery programs and medicated assisted treatment, doubling the distribution of naloxone in the next three years, increasing social support for people at risk of overdose, and improving the conditions in communities where drug use occurs.

The overdose prevention plan also incorporates the establishment of wellness hubs as a cornerstone of the City's efforts to reduce fatal overdose deaths. These sites will provide overdose prevention services and resources, services to improve health, and linkages to treatment.

MAYOR BREED JOINS STATE LEADERS IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION FOR STATEWIDE CONSERVATORSHIP REFORM

Mayor London N. Breed joined State Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman (D-Stockton) and leaders from across California to highlight the need for statewide conservatorship reform and support newly introduced mental health bills, Senate Bills 43 and 363. Mayor Breed is co-sponsoring the bills as part of the Big City Mayors Coalition. The bills would modernize the State's behavioral health system and advance support for those most in need.



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If passed into law, SB 43 and SB 363 would greatly support improvements to San Francisco's conservatorship programs and create efficiencies in the day-to-day work of practitioners. This is the latest effort to reform California's conservatorship laws supported by Mayor Breed, which go back to 2018.

The Mayor and State leaders were also joined by representatives from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) California, the California State Association of Psychiatrists, and the Psychiatric Physicians Alliance of California.

Senate Bill 43 seeks to reform California's Lanterman–Petris–Short (LPS) conservatorship law by updating the criteria for determining if a person is “gravely disabled,” the standard for LPS conservatorship eligibility. SB 43 would update the definition of “gravely disabled” to include a new focus on preventing serious physical and mental harm stemming from a person's inability to provide for their needs for nourishment, personal or medical care, find appropriate shelter, or attend to self-protection or personal safety, due to their mental or substance use disorder.

Senate Bill 363 would establish a real-time, internet-based dashboard to collect, aggregate and display information about the availability of beds in a range of psychiatric and substance abuse facilities, helping providers readily find and secure treatment for clients in appropriate settings, reducing delays or extended stays in emergency rooms.

Mayor Breed has advocated for a broad range of statewide conservatorship reform, working closely with State Senator Scott Wiener and other State and City leaders to successfully pass and implement mental health conservatorship process improvements both in San Francisco and throughout California.

In 2018, Mayor Breed helped spearhead SB 1045, authored by Senator Scott Wiener, which created a five-year pilot program for San Francisco and select cities to set up a conservatorship program focused on providing housing with wraparound services to the most vulnerable people living on the streets. The Mayor again joined Senator Wiener and City leaders to advocate for adding conservatorship amendments in 2019 to ensure the population in most need of support would be helped.

[Press conference was livestreamed and can be viewed here.](#)

ZSFG's ORTHO TRAUMA INSTITUTE CELEBRATES 16th ANNIVERSARY



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On February 24, the Ortho Trauma Institute (OTI) at ZSFG celebrated its 16th Anniversary of care at the hospital. Their commitment to clinical care, education, research and outreach activities have changed the lives of many for the better throughout the greater Bay Area. OTI offers a full musculoskeletal service line and covers orthopedic subspecialties such as trauma, spine, sports medicine, foot and ankle, hand, arthroplasty, pediatrics, and tumors. The integrated clinical-research program has become a model for other international programs and has the largest international outreach program of any Orthopedic Department in North America.

They celebrated during ZSFG's Thank A Resident Day and Thank A Fellow Day where the hospital also recognized the entire team, including residents and fellows who are a part of the echelon trauma fellowship. The institute has the largest number of trauma fellowship-trained and dual trauma-specialty trained groups in North America!

THE 2023 EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT SURVEY IS OPEN THROUGH MARCH 22

DPH has begun its 2023 Employee Engagement Survey and it will be open through March 22. The survey will ask questions related to DPH staff workplace experiences, including racial equity, management, burnout, safety, organizational support, and other employee engagement indicators. Participants are eligible to win \$25 gift cards, DPH water bottles or team-based incentives. Staff have received survey links via email and text. For any questions, contact EEsurvey@sfdph.org.

COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 3/1:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of new COVID cases per day is 94 and 86 people are hospitalized, including 7 in the ICU.
- Eighty-six percent of all SF residents have been vaccinated and 65% have received booster dose(s).

[DPH in the News](#)