



## 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 April 4, 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 196,818 San Francisco residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19. And, sadly, a total of 1,181 San Franciscans have died. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) sends our condolences to their loved ones.*

### **UPDATE TO SF'S FIVE-YEAR FINANCIAL PROJECTION AND ADDITIONAL BUDGET INSTRUCTIONS**

On Friday, March 31, the Mayor's Office, Controller's Office and the Office of the Budget and Legislative Analyst issued an update to the five-year financial projection, reporting a worsening of the two-year deficit. The driving factors around the increased deficit compared to the December 2022 report includes lower than expected revenue projections compared to the prior forecast, as well as increased costs related to employee health and pension. In addition, as the City is in active labor negotiations with Police and Firefighters' unions and with the In-Home Supportive Services independent providers union, and the outcome of these negotiations will impact the projection.

Furthermore, there are numerous pending or proposed policy decisions with fiscal impact, including: addressing the structural staffing shortages in the Police Department; annualizing the Public Works street cleaning supplemental, heard and pending approval by the Board of Supervisors; maintaining the current level of community ambassadors; backfilling the loss of one-time State funds to maintain current year shelter operations; and several other appropriations for new program initiatives pending at the Board.

With this news, Mayor Breed issued an instruction on Thursday, March 30, requesting departments propose additional options to reduce additional General Fund support, equivalent to at least another 5% in each year, by April 7<sup>th</sup>. For DPH, a 5% reduction represents approximately \$50 million of savings in its annual budget. Given the magnitude of this request, the Mayor's Office has agreed to allow DPH to submit its proposal after the April 18<sup>th</sup> Health Commission. While department staff will begin working on developing a plan to meet the instructions and will bring back additional proposals at the next Health Commission for its review and approval.



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### **LAUNCHING EPIC “WELCOME” AT DPH**

Next week, DPH will launch Epic’s Welcome solution. Welcome will help our patients prepare for their visits with us. Patients will receive text messages reminding them to prepare and check-in for their appointments via MyChart, the Epic platform which allows patients and their designated family members to see their medical records and message their care team. If documentation is required upon arrival at one of our clinics, patients will use iPads to review and electronically sign documents, as needed. Welcome lands first in our Primary Care Clinics, and over the next several months will launch across our hospital and specialty clinic settings. Welcome will be available in six languages.

### **BLACK HEALTH, WELLNESS & EMPOWERMENT FORUM**

On March 29, the DPH Office of Health Equity (OHE) hosted a community forum to present recent findings from the OHE-funded study as part of a priority setting process for the Black community. The study sought to understand what San Francisco's elder Black/African American population believe contributes to a vibrant and successful way of life. This is a model based on strengths rather than deficits, in response to input from community members and organizations.

The study defined which shared aspects of these elders' lifestyles contributed to their joy and contentment, as well as explored how Black/African Americans have been able to maintain their joy despite adversities faced because of racism and poverty. After the presentation, attendees had the opportunity discuss the findings and to recommend initiatives and activities to promote Black joy to improve health outcomes for Black San Franciscans.

### **ZSFG EXPERIENCES AND MITIGATES IMPACTS OF PROLONGED COMMERCIAL POWER OUTAGE**

Like much of the Bay Area, Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital (ZSFG) was significantly impacted by extreme weather on March 21<sup>st</sup> and March 22<sup>nd</sup>. As the City’s largest primary care facility and the only Level 1 Trauma Center serving San Francisco and northern San Mateo, it is critical that the hospital remain operational for trauma and urgent care, even when it is impacted by emergencies, such as the storm-related power outages.

A series of power outages began during the late afternoon of Tuesday, March 21 which caused systemic problems throughout the entire campus. Most significantly, Building 25, the main hospital building where emergency services, operating rooms, ICU/NICU, and family care departments are located, began running on generator power that evening after the power went out, as did Building 5, where pediatric urgent care, cardiology, and many of our outpatient services are located.



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ZSFG mitigated the impacts to staff and patients until commercial power was fully restored, which did not occur until the following late afternoon.

ZSFG has a robust response to emergencies, such as commercial power outages, and the hospital's clinical and support staff and everyone on campus took immediate action and took precautions and set up contingencies so that patients and the community were well-served despite the substantial impacts to outpatient and procedural services. While all facilities throughout the campus operated on minimal power, leading to reduced access to computers, light, phones, refrigeration, and water, staff responded and worked around the outage. They worked diligently to reschedule hundreds of appointments and shifted to telehealth appointments by phone, as the outpatient clinics did not have enough power to see patients.

The facilities teams worked around the clock to get the hospital back on commercial power. Facilities responded to multiple requests throughout the hospital, including providing lights to families in darkened ICU waiting rooms.

Despite the prolonged commercial power outage, ZSFG maintained critical services, including Trauma, the Emergency Department, and urgent care. Thank you to all the hard-working ZSFG staff who helped us respond to this emergency.

### **6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PUBLIC HEALTH DETAILING INSTITUTE**

The Capacity Building Assistance program, getSFcba, of DPH's Center for Learning & Innovation will be hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Health Detailing Institute on March 29<sup>th</sup> through 31<sup>st</sup>. Public Health Detailing is an evidence-based approach to encourage clinical practice change through brief, educational, one-on-one provider visits. This will be the first in-person Institute since 2019.

The focus of the Institute this year is on syndemics, or the interactions between health epidemics and other social determinants of health that can impact risk for contracting HIV.

Participants representing health departments and their affiliates in the West Region – Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington – will converge in the Bay Area to learn how to incorporate new and existing topics into their detailing efforts. Topics covered will include: PrEP, Doxy-PEP, Gender Affirming Care & Respectful Language, Addressing Racism in Public Health Detailing, and more. GetSFcba has partnered with subject matter experts to deliver each session, including DPH staff, as well as representatives from the National Resource Center on



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Academic Detailing (NaRCAD), UCSF, San Jose State University, and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

### **VOLUNTEER FOR SF'S 45<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CARNAVAL**

The DPH Raza and Indigenous Affinity Group is excited to announce that they are coordinating staff volunteers for the historic 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Carnival event on Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup> in the Mission District. This is the first time that DPH staff volunteers will be stationed at the event entrance to welcome attendees.

The DPH Raza and Indigenous Affinity Group's goal is to provide group members and volunteer staff participants an opportunity to meet and engage with community and participate in this festive event. Carnaval San Francisco celebrates the Latino culture and brings people from all walks of life together to enjoy music and dance, culminating in the Carnaval Grand Parade on Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>. Contact Isela Ford ([Isela.ford@sfdph.org](mailto:Isela.ford@sfdph.org)) if you are interested in getting involved. Here's to celebrating Carnaval San Francisco: 45 Years of Music and Movement!

### **ZSFG'S CHIEF EXPERIENCE OFFICER RECOGNIZED BY BECKER'S HOSPITAL REVIEW**

Congratulations to Aiyana Johnson, MSW, MPH, the Chief Experience Officer of ZSFG Hospital for being on Becker's Hospital Review's 2023 list of [50+ Hospital and Health System Chief Experience Officers to Know](#). Chief Experience Officers are responsible for refining the patient journey, ensuring that the experience is smooth and comfortable from start to finish. The leaders included on this list are first and foremost advocates for respectful care delivery, acting as champions of equitable care and cultural transformation for their hospitals and health systems. The list honors them for their diligence in creating safe, fair and well-ordered care experiences for patients. Aiyana has been the Chief Experience Officer at ZSFG since 2014. She has experience in strategic planning, project management and program evaluation. Before her current role, she was the training manager at the hospital. Congratulations on this honor, Aiyana!

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

As of 3/29:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of new COVID cases per day is 48 and 46 people are hospitalized, including 4 in the ICU.
- Eighty-six percent of all SF residents have been vaccinated and 65% have received booster dose(s). Thirty-nine percent of residents have received a bivalent booster.



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### DPH in the News