



City and County of San Francisco
London N. Breed
Mayor

San Francisco Department of Public Health

Grant Colfax, MD
Director of Health

Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of August 1, 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 201,238 San Francisco residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19. And, sadly, a total of 1,225 San Franciscans have died. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) sends our condolences to their loved ones.

SF'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19 SPREAD RESULTED IN LOWER LEVELS OF MORTALITY AND ILLNESS ACROSS ALL AGES AND ETHNICITIES, NEW STUDY SHOWS

A comprehensive program implementation study, conducted by DPH in partnership with researchers at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), has revealed San Francisco implemented one of the most intensive, inclusive and multipronged COVID-19 pandemic responses in the United States, resulting in San Francisco experiencing one of the lowest COVID-19 deaths among larger metropolitan cities overall and across all ages and ethnicities. The study, including lead author Darpun D. Sachdev, MD. and senior author Grant Colfax, MD recently [published in Public Health Reports](#), a prominent academic journal, highlights crucial lessons learned including the importance of community responsiveness joint planning, and collective action to inform future pandemic response and advance healthy equity.

In March 2020, during the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak, San Francisco mounted an aggressive four-prong strategy to mitigate the spread of disease in the community and lower incidents of severe illness. The strategy included:

- **Aggressive mitigation measures**, such as asymptomatic testing of vulnerable populations, masking, and stay-at-home orders.
- **Using a health equity lens to prioritize neighborhoods and populations disproportionately impacted**, resulting in the accessibility of tests, vaccines, and financial support for these populations.
- **Use of timely and adaptive data to determine policy**, such as stay-at-home orders and booster recommendations.
- **Partnerships and public trust** through engaging and providing expansion funding to community-based organizations (CBOs), holding regular press conferences by the San Francisco Mayor and the DPH Director of Health, launching a COVID-19 dashboard,



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maintaining consistent communications across Bay Area counties, and centralizing resources through partnerships with other hospitals.

The study mapped population health outcomes to these strategies, showing a strong correlation between pandemic response and lower rates of transmission, reduced number of hospital patients, and lower mortality.

As of 2022, San Francisco had the lowest number of COVID-19 deaths among large metropolitan cities in the United States, with 98 per 100,000 residents, compared to 229 COVID-19 deaths per 100,000 in the state of California and 301 per 100,000 in the entire US population. Though mortality rates remained low, the study notes that Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital was significantly impacted by COVID-19, stretching the limits of the hospital's resources and staff.

DPH remains committed to sustaining vital partnerships with communities to ensure COVID-19 resources, such as testing and vaccinations, remain available to those most in need even as the landscape shifts from an emergency response to long-term recovery.

LAGUNA HONDA HOSPITAL RECERTIFICATION

The 90-day Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Monitoring Survey #3 took place in June, resulting in 33 findings. This is a significant improvement from the first 90-day monitoring survey which had 124 findings. Laguna Honda has made significant strides in making the changes necessary to be recertified in the Medicaid and Medicare programs.

As required by the settlement agreement, the CMS appointed Quality Improvement Expert (QIE) developed a Root Cause Analysis to address the findings in the June Monitoring Survey #3, as well as Root Cause Analyses for other non-monitoring-survey regulatory findings.

As a result of the Root Cause Analyses for the June Monitoring Survey #3 and other non-monitoring-survey regulatory findings, two proposed Action Plans were developed by LHH. The proposed Action Plan for Monitoring Survey #3 has approximately 290 milestones, while the proposed Action Plan for the non-monitoring-survey findings has approximately 85 milestones, many of which are underway.

The proposed Action Plans build on the improvement work that has happened so far, and continues to ensure that Laguna Honda achieves the highest quality of care for its residents through ongoing improvement work. We are awaiting CMS approval of the proposed Action Plans. Our goal is to



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have all Action Plan milestones completed by September 1 so that Laguna Honda is recertification ready.

CDPH HEALTH AT HOME RELICENSING SURVEY COMPLETION

DPH recently underwent a re-licensing survey of its Health at Home program. The survey, conducted over seven days, focused on assessing compliance with regulatory standards and the quality of patient care. We are proud to announce that the survey results were incredibly positive, reflecting our exceptional team's unwavering commitment and dedication.

After six years without a survey, due to the pandemic and other limiting circumstances within the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), we have achieved an outstanding milestone and had only three minor deficiencies, which surpasses our previous performance and demonstrates our dedication to delivering exceptional healthcare services.

Health at Home staff and leaders were commended for their ability to meet the needs of the patients even throughout the pandemic and for supporting patients who are uninsured and have limited resources. These remarkable results are a testament to every team member's hard work and collaborative spirit. Building on this success, we remain committed to continuous improvement and meeting the evolving needs of our patients and community.

DPH'S CENTER FOR LEARNING & INNOVATION (CLI) PRODUCES DOCUMENTARY, "HEART OF ACCESS" TO HIGHLIGHT THE COMMUNITY-DRIVEN COVID-19 EQUITY RESPONSE

Supported by the CDC Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) and Public Health Infrastructure grants, the Center for Learning & Innovation of DPH's Population Health Division partnered with OLU8 Film and Culture and AllThrive Education to produce and distribute a short documentary film describing the community, academic, and public health partnerships at the center of San Francisco's COVID-19 equity response. *The Heart of Access, San Francisco's Fight for Health Equity during the COVID-19 Pandemic* will premier in August and September at three community screenings hosted by the collaborating community-based organizations featured in the film. In addition, we are pleased to share the documentary was selected for screening at the American Public Health Association Public Health Film Festival in November. To watch the trailer, visit <http://heartofaccessfilm.org/>



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UPCOMING TRAUMA INFORMED SYSTEMS TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

On August 15th, DPH staff are invited to attend a Mindfulness and Emotional Intelligence training:

Trauma Informed Systems Presents:
Search Inside of yourself Leadership Institute Training

August 15, 2023
9:00 A.M - 5:00 P.M.
25 Van Ness, Ste 610

Find out more by visiting: my.siyli.org/j/ndQCm

COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 7/27:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of new COVID cases per day is 28.*
- Eighty-six percent of all SF residents have been vaccinated and 65% have received booster dose(s). Forty-one percent of residents have received a bivalent booster.

*We are temporarily pausing the distribution of hospitalization data while CDPH makes updates to the hospitalization data reporting stream. We plan to re-integrate this data once system updates are complete.

[DPH in the News](#)