



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 September 19, 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>

In alignment with the California Department of Public Health, we will no longer report on COVID-19 case data. More people are now testing themselves at home for COVID-19 and we do not get data from at-home testing. This affects the accuracy of data on testing volume. We will continue to report on key indicators of COVID-19 severity and spread including [hospitalizations](#), [deaths](#), and [test positivity](#).

NEW COVID-19 VACCINE AVAILABLE IN PREPARATION FOR FALL AND WINTER SEASONS

DPH announced that all San Franciscans 6 months and older are urged to receive a new COVID-19 vaccine, aligning with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations after the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved and authorized the updated COVID-19 vaccines by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna.

All San Franciscans 6 months of age and older are urged to get vaccinated this fall against both the COVID-19 and flu. COVID-19 and flu vaccines can be given at the same visit. A flu shot is recommended for every season.

Vaccines continue to be highly effective at preventing severe illness and death, and the new COVID-19 vaccines offer the best protection against circulating subvariants. A new COVID-19 vaccine is recommended if one has not been received in the past two months. The vaccines will especially help protect those who are most at risk of developing severe flu or COVID-19 complications such as older adults, people who smoke, or anyone with chronic conditions like asthma, diabetes, or heart disease. COVID-19 vaccination also decreases the risk of long Covid which can cause prolonged symptoms.

COVID-19 vaccines will be available at health care providers, pharmacies, and clinics. Health care providers are the first place to go for COVID-19 and flu health care. Through a network of DPH-affiliated sites, DPH offers vaccinations to individuals without health insurance or who face barriers to access vaccination. COVID-19 and flu vaccines will be available at DPH community sites early next week. San Francisco is committed to ensuring low-barrier access to new COVID-19 vaccines



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and will continue to partner with community organizations in priority neighborhoods to offer information and vaccines.

While vaccines can reduce the risks of contracting COVID-19 and flu, they do not completely eliminate them. DPH strongly recommends that San Franciscans take the following additional actions to protect themselves and others this fall and winter from illness:

- Stay home when sick and stay away from others who are sick.
- Practice good hygiene: wash hands, cover coughs and sneezes, and avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Keep a well-fitted mask on hand for added protection in crowded indoor spaces.
- Have COVID-19 at-home test kits to identify infection so you can protect yourself and others.
- Increase ventilation or air filtration when indoors if possible.
- Ask your provider in advance if you are someone who would benefit from treatment with a medicine for flu or for COVID-19, as these medicines must be started early.

For more information on vaccine locations, COVID-19 resources, and information, visit [this link](#).

HIGHLIGHTING TWO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

DPH would like to highlight the following two professional development opportunities to staff:

Bloomberg Fellowship. This fellowship fully funds part-time MPH and DrPH degrees at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health for professionals working in one of the Bloomberg American Health Initiative's five focus areas: addiction and overdose, adolescent health, environmental changes, food systems for health, and violence. For more information, visit this website: <https://americanhealth.jhu.edu/fellowship>

Diverse Executives Leading in Public Health

Cosponsored between Association of State and Territorial Health Officials and the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at Morehouse School of Medicine, with funding from CDC, this is a new leadership development program that is meant to "enhance the capacity and strengthen the networks of mid- to senior-level governmental public health professionals from identity groups that are underrepresented in public health leadership. Program participants will be selected from experienced public health professionals who self-identify from an underrepresented group, including people of color, disability status, women, and LGBTQ+ individuals." For more information, visit this website: <https://www.astho.org/topic/leadership-and-workforce-development/delph>



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DPH BRANCH DIRECTOR RECEIVES ATHENA AWARD

California Women in Homeland Security (CA WHS) recently unveiled the list of recipients for their 2023 Athena Awards, which included DPH Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Director, Dr. Andi Tenner. The Athena Awards are given to outstanding women who have been recognized for their exceptional contributions and unparalleled dedication in their respective fields. These leaders have not only achieved remarkable milestones but have also inspired those around them. Their stories are a testament to the transformative power of passion and commitment. Congratulations, Dr. Tenner!

Dr. Andi Tenner

Andrea (Andi) Tenner, MD, MPH, FACEP is a board-certified physician in both emergency medicine and internal medicine. She completed a fellowship in International Emergency Medicine and an MPH with a focus on forced migration and humanitarian crises. She also holds a Certificate of Knowledge in Clinical Tropical Medicine and Travelers' Health from the American Society for Tropical Health and Hygiene. She is currently serving as the Director for Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response for the City and County of San Francisco. She is also an Associate Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at UCSF and is UCSF Global Health Sciences Affiliate Faculty.

Dr. Tenner's career focus has been disaster preparedness and response, strengthening health and emergency care systems in the pre- and post-disaster setting, and tropical infectious disease. She has worked in multiple countries in South America and sub-Saharan Africa. Her field experience includes working in an active conflict zone in South Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo, responding to a building collapse in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, and overseeing Ebola Isolation Units for the International Rescue Committee in Sierra Leone.

Dr. Tenner served in various roles during the COVID response, including the Department of Public Health Incident Command, and also served as the Mpox Incident Management Team Lead. She has served as an instructor, teaching disaster management principles for the US Department of State Office of Antiterrorism Assistance's Senior Crisis Management Seminar and as an expert consultant for the World Health Organization Academy Mass Casualty Management Course. She serves on the National Association of City and County Health Officers' Preparedness Planning, Outcomes, and Measurement Workgroup; is a member of the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine; and is a member of the Disaster Special Interest group for the International Federation for Emergency Medicine. Additionally, she represented local health jurisdictions and served as a reviewer for the National Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine Future Planning for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Enterprise: Lessons Learned from the COVID-19 Pandemic:



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Proceedings of a Workshop (2022) and completed the Center for Homeland Defense and Security Executive Leaders Program in August of 2023. She also currently serves on the WHO Technical Advisory Group for Integrated Clinical Services and the Area Maritime Security Committee.

TRAUMA INFORMED SYSTEMS TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

On September 26th, DPH staff are invited to attend Mindfulness and Emotional Intelligence training:

Trauma-Informed Systems Presents:
Search Inside Yourself Leadership Institute Training
1-Day In-Person

September 26th, 2023
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
25 Van Ness, Suite 610

Find out more by visiting: <https://my.siyli.org/j/HnDNq>

COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 9/14:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 7.7% and there are 58 COVID hospitalizations.
- Eighty-eight percent of all SF residents have been vaccinated and 65% have received booster dose(s). Forty-two percent of residents have received a bivalent booster.

[DPH in the News](#)