



## 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 October 17, 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](#).*

### **DPH HOSTS A CONVERSATION WITH DR. ANTHONY FAUCI AT ZSFG**

DPH was honored to host Dr. Anthony Fauci, MD at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital on October 5, 2023. Dr. Colfax introduced the former Director of the National Institute for Allergies and Infectious Diseases, who engaged the audience in a conversation on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.

During his talk, Dr. Fauci discussed the importance of always being prepared for the next public health crisis and called for an expansion of research programs on infectious diseases so that health care providers can be ready for the next pandemic.

After the presentation, Dr. Fauci generously answered questions from the audience drawing on his decades of public health service as a scientist, physician, and leader. He applauded San Francisco's comprehensive COVID-19 response. The success of San Francisco's COVID response relied on quickly putting public health principles into action and adapting to outcomes in real time through the lens of health equity, which was all informed by Dr. Fauci's national leadership. Our response resulted in lower transmission rates, reduced number of hospital patients and lower mortality.

We thank Dr. Fauci for sharing his time with the doctors, nurses, public health staff and City & County of San Francisco staff who served in the COVID Command Center and at various Departmental Operation Centers, working on the front lines to implement San Francisco's COVID-19 pandemic response, a response that was celebrated as a model throughout the nation.

Dr. Fauci concluded his visit by encouraging everyone to stay true to their values and focus on serving the public in the face of adversity.



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The special event was attended by approximately 100 in-person guests with close to 700 livestream attendees. A recording of the event's livestream is available [here](#) and photos from the event can be found [here](#).

### **MID-YEAR BUDGET UPDATE**

San Francisco's economic reality remains challenging and the Mayor has determined that we cannot wait until next year's budget process to begin to address our growing structural deficit, which at this time, her office projects to be least \$500 million in Fiscal Year 2025-26. Mayor Breed is therefore instructing City Departments to work with her budget office to propose reductions of at least 3% of General Fund support in the current fiscal year. For DPH, this will mean identifying another \$25.9 million in additional revenue or savings in the current year by October 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Mayor's Office is also asking City Departments to take a number of budget-saving actions, including pausing new programs or program expansions that have not started; reviewing current vacancies and identifying vacant positions that can be eliminated; restricting employee travel expenses to only essential domestic travel; and reviewing the performance of programs and contracts.

We anticipate a detailed financial forecast in the coming month and additional budget instructions to follow in December for FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26. As always, DPH will work to avoid service reductions and maximize revenues. We will update the Commission on our response to this request and keep you informed as the budget process unfolds this year.

### **LAGUNA HONDA RECEIVES CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE**

The California Department of Public Health Healthcare-Associated Infections Program and Health Services Advisory Group, recently recognized DPH Laguna Honda Hospital for successfully completing all four virtual Infection Prevention and Control Train-the-Trainer Workshops. Over 2,700 individuals attended the workshops, representing 650 California nursing homes. Laguna Honda Hospital was among the top 7 percent of California nursing homes that completed all four sessions. We congratulate LHH for continuing to build Infection Prevention and Control expertise in the facility and integrating continued learning among our staff!



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### **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PARTICIPATES IN WORKSHOP WITH SF HOUSING**

The DPH Environmental Health Branch participates in many community events and trainings throughout the year. Recently, the San Francisco Housing Development Corporation (SFHDC) sponsored a workshop called Minding My Black-Owned Business. This workshop's focus was on food safety for people wanting to open or manage a business that serves food to the public. SFHDC reached out to partner with Environmental Health, which is the Branch of DPH that enforces the California Retail Food Code in San Francisco. Senior Health Inspector Carlos Barragan provided workshop participants with an overview of a food compliance inspection and trainings in foodborne illnesses, pest control and overall food equipment and facility safety. The CDC estimates that about 48 million people each year will get a foodborne illness, 128,000 of those will be hospitalized resulting in about 3,000 deaths annually. Community trainings provide a great opportunity for our inspectors to be proactively setting local business owners up for success and protecting the public. Thank you to Carlos and all our Food Safety Inspectors!

### **HIGHLIGHTING THE HEALTHY STEPS PROGRAM**

Kudos to the team behind the HealthySteps program at the [Children's Health Center at ZSFG](#) for paving the way for sustainable behavioral health prevention and promotion services for families with young children. Now entering its fifth year, HealthySteps provides family-centered behavioral health and child development services during early pediatric primary care visits for ages 0-5. For example, a new mother can be screened for postpartum depression at a well visit for her infant. Providing concurrent care for both mother and child is an example of dyadic services. The program has been a model for California's Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative and the Medi-Cal pilot demonstration site for a new dyadic services benefit redefining criteria for children's behavioral health services.

### **YOUTH INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

DPH is partnering with [Opportunities for All](#) and [FACES](#) to provide job experiences and internships to San Francisco youth. Interns will be provided with work exposure, professional experience, and confidence to achieve their career goals. If your team would welcome an intern, please fill out the youth internship [contact form](#). DPH HR will contact you to set up a meeting to learn more about your unit and the internship opportunity. For any questions or if you have ideas about creating other internship opportunities at DPH, contact: [dph-internships@sfdph.org](mailto:dph-internships@sfdph.org).



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### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

As of 10/12:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 3.7% and there are 38 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](#)**