



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 November 7, 2023

*A current overview of issues affecting the state of public health in San Francisco*

<https://sf.gov/departments/san-francisco-health-commission/past-meetings>

*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](#).*

### **SF AND DPH PREPARE FOR APEC**

San Francisco is preparing to host the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Meeting & CEO Summit. This is an extraordinary opportunity for our City where we will see the largest convening of world leaders here since the UN Charter was signed in 1945. Events will be hosted between November 11 and 18 with main events around Moscone Center, the waterfront and Nob Hill.

DPH has a significant role in ensuring the success of APEC 2023. Our public health priorities include emergency planning and preparedness, healthcare system security, expanded food safety, increased medical surveillance, and support for special populations.

The City will activate its Emergency Operations Center on November 9 and DPH will activate our Department Operations Center (DOC) on November 13 to ensure continuity of services and enhance public health. We are working in close partnership with other City departments to minimize the impacts to our DPH community. For additional information, visit the City's webpage on APEC at [sf.gov/APEC](https://sf.gov/APEC).

### **CHINESE HOSPITAL SUBACUTE UNIT UPDATE**

DPH has continued to support the development of new subacute beds in San Francisco. San Francisco only has one subacute skilled nursing facility in the City which is not accepting new patients and will stop providing subacute skilled nursing services when the last patient leaves. DPH is working closely with Chinese Hospital as they pursue skilled nursing facility (SNF) and subacute SNF licensure and certification for its 23-bed unit.



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On June 1, 2023, Chinese Hospital received SNF license certification from the State of California; a requirement prior to getting certification for subacute SNF beds. Chinese Hospital has since hired experienced consultant Daniel Ruth to guide them through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services SNF certification process. DPH anticipates that Chinese Hospital is on track to open a new sub-acute SNF unit in late 2025/early 2026, following Medi-Cal/Medicare certification and sub-acute SNF certification. DPH will continue to work with Chinese Hospital and looks forward to providing updates to the Health Commission in 2024.

### **LAGUNA HONDA FAMILY COUNCIL RECONVENES**

The first Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) Family Council meeting since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic took place on October 18. Founded in 1990, the Family Council is a space for family, friends, and representatives to come together to support one another and discuss topics related to LHH and the care of their loved ones.

Family, friends, and representatives organize and run the Family Council. However, LHH staff provides support and LHH leaders will join as guests, as directed and approved by the members. We are pleased to see the relaunch of the Family Council and look forward to supporting them in the years ahead.

### **MARIA X MARTINEZ HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER LAUNCHES CONTINGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

The Maria X Martinez (MXM) Health Resource Center launched a contingency management (CM) program last month to help people with stimulant use disorder stop or reduce their use. CM is an evidence-based behavioral therapy practice in which participants are offered a tangible incentive like gift cards of low monetary value to reinforce a positive behavior change such as practicing abstinence from substance use. Employed by the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs for more than 50 years, CM is an effective intervention for people with addiction disorders related to stimulants like cocaine and methamphetamine, for which there is no approved medication-assisted treatment. DPH has been expanding the service as part of our overdose prevention strategy. Participants of the first CM cohort at MXM, which primarily serves people experiencing homelessness, can earn up to \$593.60 in gift cards over the 12-week program, which includes individual counseling and a peer support group.



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### **HIGHLIGHTING DPH DENTAL SERVICES**

For more than 20 years, DPH has partnered with the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to conduct oral health screenings on kindergartners, a program with far-reaching impacts beyond oral health that are essential to our mission of promoting and protecting the health of all San Franciscans.

Partnering with the San Francisco Dental Society, the Mission, Chinatown, and Bayview/Hunter's Point Oral Health Task Forces and other community-based groups, DPH's Dental Services team heads back to school every October to administer the Kinder Oral Health Surveillance Program at all 74 SFUSD elementary schools and two other school-based programs.

Thanks to a grant from the Soda Tax, DPH was able to expand our Molar Sealant Program serving older elementary school aged children from 12 to 30 schools in the 2023-24 school year. Schools are prioritized based on the data collected during the kindergarten program, which notes the number of children with treated and untreated cavities. DPH also has an Oral Health Screening and Fluoride Varnish Program for SFUSD Pre-K and Transitional Kindergarten students at 37 school sites.

Within the San Francisco Health Network, Dental Services operates five dental clinics in DPH primary clinics across the City, plus a weekly clinic at the Youth Guidance Center for justice system-involved youth. For many children in San Francisco, DPH Dental Services provide their first experience with a dental professional. It's another reason our school-based programs are so valuable to our communities. Kudos to this small but mighty DPH team!

### **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES RECEIVES GRANT AWARD**

Behavioral Health Services Children, Youth, and Families System of Care (CYF) has been awarded \$750,000 by the California Department of Health Care Services through the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative. This award represents an exciting step towards promoting social-emotional well-being, preventing challenges, and ensuring timely access to equitable behavioral health services. Through this grant, CYF will be able to scale and implement Parent-Child Interaction Therapy, an evidence-based dyadic behavioral intervention for children (ages 2-7) and their parents or caregivers that focuses on decreasing externalizing child behavior problems.

### **DPH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

DPH Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch (PHEPR) successfully activated and responded to high temperatures in San Francisco on Oct. 4-7, while simultaneously maintaining a continuity of operations at the branch. During this activation, PHEPR also successfully coordinated preparedness



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activities for the Kaiser Hospital Labor Stoppage and the memorial service for Sen. Dianne Feinstein, and supported the Citywide coordination for Fleet week, as well as continuing ongoing support of Laguna Honda Hospital and planning for the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit. The ability to have a rotating incident response team that does not include activating all branch staff is a part of PHEPR's strategic objective to ensure the continuity of operations of the branch during incident activations; this was instrumental to PHEPR's success in responding to so many events in the month of October. Thank you, PHEPR Branch!

### **SF SODA TAX MARKS 5-YEAR MILESTONE**

This year marks the 5-year anniversary of San Francisco's Soda Tax. To celebrate this remarkable achievement, DPH's Community Health Equity and Promotion Branch and partners will host a series of events around the key pillars that have made San Francisco a model for the successful implementation of the Soda Tax: community, science, youth, and policy. Visit [sodatax-sf.org/5yr](https://sodatax-sf.org/5yr) for details about each event.

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

As of 11/02:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 4.7% and there are 18 COVID hospitalizations.
- Fifteen percent of SF residents are fully up to date on their COVID vaccinations and have received the updated vaccine.

### **[DPH in the News](#)**