



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 January 16, 2024

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](#).

MAYOR LONDON BREED APPOINTS GREG WAGNER TO BE NEXT CITY CONTROLLER

Mayor London N. Breed appointed Greg Wagner to be the next Controller for the City and County of San Francisco. This appointment is pending confirmation by the Board of Supervisors. Greg is currently the Chief Operating Officer of DPH and has over 16 years of high-level experience managing finances and administrative activities within the City and County San Francisco. Greg would replace outgoing Controller Ben Rosenfield, who will plan to leave office at the end of February.

As the current Chief Operating Officer of DPH, Greg oversees the finances and administrative operations of the City's largest department, including ZSFG and Laguna Honda (LHH) Hospitals, and a citywide network of primary care, mental health, and substance use programs. Greg previously served as DPH's Chief Financial Officer from 2011 to 2020.

At DPH, Greg has led financial management of key public health and citywide priorities, including the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a capital program to rebuild Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and multiple outpatient service sites, the implementation of Mental Health SF, the City's implementation of the Affordable Care Act, and the recertification of LHH.

Prior to joining DPH, Greg worked in the Mayor's Budget Office from 2006 to 2011, serving as Mayor's Budget Director under Mayors Gavin Newsom and Ed Lee. During that time, he led development and approval of the City's annual balanced budget through the financially challenging years following the Great Recession. Before joining the City, Greg worked at the nonprofit San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR), where he led



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research and policy analysis for the organization's government efficiency program areas. Greg holds a Master of Public Policy degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

Greg will replace outgoing Controller Ben Rosenfield, who has served as City Controller for 16 years. He was first appointed in 2008 by former Mayor Gavin Newsom. Mr. Rosenfield announced late last year that he would be leaving his position in 2024. In San Francisco, the City Controller is an appointed position that is nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by a majority of the Board of Supervisors. If confirmed by the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Rosenfield will work with Greg to transition him into the new role with a planned departure at the end of February.

Congratulations on this appointment, Greg! DPH is deeply grateful for your service at DPH and to the City and County of San Francisco.

BUDGET UPDATES: STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS REGARDING FY 2024-25 AND FY 2025-26 BUDGET INSTRUCTIONS

On December 13th, the Mayor issued her instructions to departments for their FY2024-25 and FY2025-26 budget submissions. The City's economic reality remains challenging, and as expected, the City is facing a multi-year budget deficit which will require immediate corrective actions. Balancing the budget will be a multi-year process that will require ongoing reductions, and the Mayor's Office is asking for 10% General Fund reductions from all departments in FY24-25 and FY25-26.

DPH will continue to work diligently to prepare budget reductions in the upcoming fiscal years, and we want to approach the budget process with intention while including opportunities for staff, community, and stakeholder input. On December 19th and December 20th, DPH Chief Financial Officer Jenny Louie hosted two briefings, first with approximately 75 DPH managers and directors, then with approximately 100 partner community-based organizations, to review the City's current economic landscape, communicate the department's approach and priorities as we prepare our budget proposal, review next steps in the budget process, and hold time to answer initial questions and concerns. The Human Services Network and HIV/AIDS Provider Network also received briefings on January 4th and January 10, respectively. The DPH budget team has proactively set up an email address to submit budget-related questions and substantial savings ideas at dphbudgetideas@sfdph.org.

We aim to be as transparent as possible as this budget process moves quickly, and we thank everyone for their hard work and partnership throughout this process.



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We will return to the Commission in February with a full budget proposal.

FIRST LOCAL FLU DEATH REPORTED IN SAN FRANCISCO

DPH received the first report of a death caused by influenza (flu) of the season. The individual was an adult under the age of 65 who was not vaccinated and had preexisting medical conditions.

Respiratory viruses such as flu, COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) continue to circulate across the country. DPH, and health departments across the Bay Area recommend the following actions to stay healthy this winter:

Get Vaccinated Against Flu, COVID-19, and RSV.

- Staying up to date on vaccination is the best way to protect against severe flu, COVID-19, and RSV disease. These viruses pose the greatest risk to infants, older adults, and persons with certain health conditions. Getting recommended vaccines when pregnant protects pregnant people as well as their babies.
- Everyone 6 months and older should get an annual flu vaccine. Children 8 years and younger need two (2) doses the first year they get the flu vaccine.
- One dose of this year's updated COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for everyone ages 6 months and older, at least two (2) months after their last dose. Children 6 months to 4 years of age and immunocompromised persons who have never been vaccinated are recommended to get additional doses.
- People without insurance or whose insurance does not cover the cost of vaccines can get the updated COVID-19 vaccine for free through the Bridge Access Program. Visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find a location.
- Adults 60 years and older can get vaccinated against RSV to prevent severe illness. Pregnant people should also get the RSV vaccine at 32 to 36 weeks of pregnancy to protect their newborn. RSV vaccines are available at many pharmacies and healthcare providers.
- Flu, COVID-19, and RSV vaccines can be given at the same time.

Stay Home if You Are Sick.

- If you are feeling sick, the best way to keep from spreading illness to others is to stay home as much as you can until you have recovered, no matter which virus you have.
- People who need urgent or emergency medical care, including testing or treatment, should not hesitate to seek it.

Test Yourself if You Feel Sick.

- Reduce the chances of infecting someone else with COVID-19 by finding out if you



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have the virus. Test right away if you have symptoms of COVID-19, so that you can get treatment if you test positive. Remember, COVID-19 symptoms may be mild.

- Make sure to stock up on home test kits. Every household can get up to eight [free COVID tests](#) from the U.S. government.

Get Treatment.

- If you test positive for COVID-19, treatment is available. Medication for COVID-19 helps prevent hospitalization and is available to most adults and some teens with even mild symptoms.
- COVID-19 treatment works best when started right after symptoms begin, and within five days of symptoms starting.
- Talk to your healthcare provider about treatment options or visit covid19.ca.gov/treatment.
- If you test positive for flu, treatment is available for those at high risk for severe illness.

Wear a Mask in Indoor Public Places and Improve Ventilation.

- For added protection, consider masking in indoor public settings, especially if you are at higher risk for severe disease (over 65 years of age and/or persons with certain health conditions). Wearing a well-fitting high-quality mask, such as a KF94, KN95 or N95, can prevent infection with flu, COVID-19, and other respiratory viruses all at once.
- Wearing a mask can reduce your risk of getting sick and missing out on work, school, and holiday events.
- Masks also lower the likelihood that you pass on an infection if you are already sick, even if your symptoms are mild. This helps protect people around you, especially those at higher risk of serious illness.
- Improve ventilation indoors by turning on HVAC systems, filtering the air with a portable HEPA filter (the same kind that many use for wildfire smoke), pointing fans out open windows, or opening doors and windows when possible. These can all help viruses from spreading indoors.

2023 BIENNIAL FOOD SECURITY AND EQUITY REPORT

In accordance with Ordinance 103-21, the [2023 Biennial Food Security and Equity Report](#) was released by the Department of Public Health on December 28th. This first-of-its-kind report aggregates data on food security, health equity, and food programs from many City agencies and community-based organizations in order to describe the current landscape of food insecurity and food resources in San Francisco. The documents include a report from the DPH along with data appendices. It also includes a companion report from the Office of Economic and Workforce Development.



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We want to thank the Reporting Departments for submitting their food program data, and the Food Security Task Force for holding Special Meetings to review data and develop recommendations for the report.

Staff will be presenting the report to the Health Commission in April 2024

SF TB CLINIC

A brief report assessing the impact of tuberculosis (TB) drug shortages on California's TB programs—co-authored by Rocio Agraz-Lara, MSN, PHN, Nurse Manager of San Francisco TB Clinic—was recently published in *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. This study raised the profile of TB drug shortage impacts on patients of the San Francisco TB Clinic by amplifying our local voice together with the experience of other clinics throughout the state and helped provide the basis for establishing a California centralized TB medication buffer supply to mitigate the effects of TB drug shortages on patients. Ms. Agraz-Lara also serves on California TB Controllers Association's (CTCA's) Executive Committee as the Chair of the Nursing and Allied Health Professionals Forum for the CTCA. (Full citation: Nabity SA, Agraz-Lara R, Bravo A, et al. Notes from the Field: Supply Interruptions of First- and Second-Line Oral Drugs to Treat Tuberculosis During the Previous 12 Months—California, January–March, 2023. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2024;72:1390–1391. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm725253a2>).

ZSFG & SFGH FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP

On Monday, January 8, Dr. Grant Colfax and CEO Dr. Susan Ehrlich joined the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation and dozens of donors, artists, corporations and stakeholders at the Ferry Building where more than 20 heart sculptures were debuted, as part of the 2024 Hearts in San Francisco gala that supports ZSFG Hospital. The hearts include one made from 90,000 Lego bricks and constructed by one of the most famous Lego artists, Nathan Sawaya. These Large, Tabletop, and Mini Hearts are on display at the Ferry Building throughout February and will feature prominently as part of the Foundation's Gala on February 8th that will celebrate and support ZSFG staff and fund important programs.

COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 01/11:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 12.5% and there are 79 COVID hospitalizations.



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- Twenty-seven percent of SF residents are fully up to date on their COVID vaccinations and have received the updated vaccine.

[DPH in the News](#)