



## 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 April 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](#).*

### **LAGUNA HONDA RECERTIFICATION UPDATE**

Laguna Honda Hospital & Rehabilitation Center is dedicated to the care and wellbeing of residents and is diligently working toward full recertification with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

In August 2024, Laguna Honda achieved recertification in the Medicaid program. We are now working to recertify Laguna Honda in the federal Medicare program. Laguna Honda submitted the Plans of Correction for the CMS Recertification Survey —the Fire Life Safety portion was submitted on Saturday, January 13 and the Health Monitoring portion was submitted on Wednesday, January 17. We eagerly await direction from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and CMS on next steps towards full CMS recertification.

Additionally, in March 2024, Laguna Honda submitted Plans of Correction in response to two deficiencies. We are pleased to share that both CDPH and CMS accepted the Plans of Correction for these two deficiencies. This approval reflects the important and ongoing improvement work taking place at Laguna Honda and brings us closer to full recertification with CMS. We anticipate that we must successfully complete a revisit survey and fully resolve these deficiencies before Laguna Honda can be recertified in CMS.

The Laguna Honda team is hard at work preparing the facility for a survey revisit.



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### **DEPARTMENT-WIDE OVERDOSE WORK**

DPH is leveraging resources from across the department to improve the substance use services that make the greatest impact on reducing overdoses and disparities among people in San Francisco.

Our coordinated overdose response and engagement team has made progress toward our primary goals of increasing the availability, accessibility and effectiveness of substance use services, and strengthening engagement and social support for people at high risk of overdose.

Among the recent accomplishments in the last month, DPH has:

- Expanded regular overdose prevention outreach and engagement to 36 permanent supportive housing sites and to 26 hours weekly. Events include “coffee hours,” tabling and group overdose prevention training where people can access naloxone and information about substance use treatment.
- Expanded access to buprenorphine for people with opioid use disorder in the Tenderloin and South of Market neighborhoods at night through a collaboration between our Night Navigation and Street Medicine programs.
- Worked with Opioid Treatment Programs, state regulators and legislators to standardize and improve methadone access and retention across San Francisco.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH BRANCH COORDINATES WITH OTHER CITY AGENCIES AROUND UNPERMITTED VENDING**

In February, DPH Environmental Health Branch staff presented to the Health Commission on the topic of unpermitted vending. Through their presentation, the Commissioners learned about this complex issue, which the City works to address through a coordinated task force that includes DPH, the Department of Public Works, the Fire Department, and the Police Department.

All of these agencies have a regulatory role to play when it comes to vending enforcement. As unpermitted vending has increased in San Francisco, so too has the number of coordinated enforcement operations. Compared to the first quarter of 2023, 42% more enforcement operations performed have been performed between January and March of this year. And in March alone, staff were out in the field 24 out of 30 days. This increase includes after-hours operations at the Giants and Warriors ballparks, on Port property, in Chinatown, with the Drug Market Agency Coordination Center, and at many special events.



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These efforts are overseen by Terrence Hong and three Senior Inspectors, Abel Simon, Danny Nguyen and Philips Ossai. We appreciate the ongoing work of these leaders and their teams.

### **ZSFG HOSTS MULTIPLE SURVEYORS**

ZSFG welcomed three significant survey teams in late March: The Joint Commission returned to follow up on their condition-level findings from their Triennial Survey; the American College of Surgeon's Commission on Cancer surveyed the hospital; and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) surveyed ZSFG's Acute Psychiatry department. The surveyor not only cleared the hospital of all previously identified condition-level findings but went on to commend the ZSFG teams for their incredible efforts. The surveyor specifically noted how impressed she was that ZSFG went from condition-level findings to what she considers leading practice.

The survey by the Commission on Cancer also yielded much praise on ZSFG's cancer treatment program. And, the six-day CDPH complaint validation survey in acute psychiatry included rigorous employee record reviews, staff interviews, and sustained additional patient record reviews. CDPH commended staff for the compassionate care they provide to our population that has unique challenges. Regarding the two complaints that initiated this visit, they were unable to be substantiated by the survey team. The team did identify some preliminary findings that the team is already working to address. A big congratulations to the ZSFG Regulatory Team for their work to ensure ZSFG is always survey ready.

### **PHEPR AT NAACHO SUMMIT**

DPH's Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEPR) Branch is committed to providing opportunities for our staff to build their emergency management expertise, maintain their expert status, and to develop close relationships with state and national partners by participating in national training events. In March PHEPR sent 10 staff members to the National Association of City & County Health Officials (NACCHO) Preparedness Summit in Cleveland, Ohio. With 10 staff participating, there was an opportunity to attend a broad sampling of available courses, enough for everyone to build expertise on a unique preparedness topic and to expand the Branch's collective knowledge base. Additionally, during the four-day summit, PHEPR staff built partnerships with other regional attendees from within The Association of Bay Area Health Officials and Regional Disaster Medical Health Coordinators, as well as strengthened coordination by networking with National PHEPR counterparts. The summit was also an excellent workforce development opportunity for new staff attending their first professional health or emergency preparedness conference.



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### **ZSFG'S DIVERSITY EQUITY AND INCLUSION TEAM COLLECTING PATIENT FEEDBACK**

ZSFG's Diversity Equity and Inclusion team has been coordinating with the DPH Office of Health Equity to organize a series of patient/family member meetings in communities we serve to hear their feedback on our services. Over 90 community members and 35 facilitators/volunteers have attended the sessions in English, Spanish, and Cantonese in Visitacion Valley, the Mission, Bayview/Hunters Point, and Civic Center. The final session will be conducted in Spanish at Casa de Apoyo in the Excelsior on April 18, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

### **DPH RECOGNIZES HEALTH INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS' WEEK**

Health Information Professionals Week runs from April 15-19. Our DPH health information professionals work in the areas of data and documentation integrity, document management, quality patient care, medical coding, revenue, releases of information, registries and more. Thank you to our health information teams for their important work supporting patients and ensuring the accuracy of clinical documentation and revenue generation for the department.

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

As of 4/11:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 1.1% and there are 29 COVID hospitalizations.
- Thirty-one percent of SF residents are fully up to date on their COVID vaccinations and have received the updated vaccine.

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