

Meeting agenda



City and County of San Francisco
Daniel Lurie, Mayor

San Francisco Department of Public Health
San Francisco Health Commission
Daniel Tsai, Director of Health

President

Laurie Green, MD

Commissioners

- Edward A. Chow, MD
- Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.
- Suzanne Giraudo, ED.D
- Tessie Guillermo, Vice President
- Judy Guggenhime
- Karim Salgado

DPH Director of Health

Daniel Tsai

Health Commission Secretary

Mark Morewitz, MSW

Minutes for Health Commission Community and Public Health Committee

Date and Time

December 15, 2025 3pm

1. Call to Order

Present: Commissioner Suzanne Giraudo, E.D., Chair
Commissioner Susan Belinda Christian, J.D., Member

Excused: Commissioner Karim Salgado

The meeting was called to order at 3:01pm.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Health Commission Community and Public Health Committee Meeting of November 17, 2025

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:

There were no commissioner comments.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the November 17, 2025 meeting minutes.

3. General Public Comment

There was no general public comment.

4. DPH Public Health Lab Update

Godfred Masinde, PHD, MS, MBA, Director, presented the item.

Dr. Masinde presented the item.

Public Comment:

Amanda, A member of the public, acknowledged the importance of the lab's modernization and encouraged strong public health preparedness. Her comments reflected confidence in the lab's contributions to citywide disease surveillance and readiness. The commenter also expressed support for continued transparency in reporting practices.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Giraudo asked about the timeliness and reliability of CDC information sharing with the DPH. She expressed interest in whether CDC communications arrive on a predictable schedule or only on an as-needed basis. She further noted past delays in federal reporting during outbreaks such as

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measles and asked whether staff felt confident in current information channels. Additionally, she raised concerns about whether staff reductions at CDC had impacted national-to-local data flow. Dr. Masinde explained that the laboratory directors nationwide participate in coordinated update meetings through the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL). He noted that updates from CDC and CDPH occur regularly, often monthly, and are timely and reliable. He added that state-level communication remains particularly strong even in times of federal staffing uncertainty.

Commissioner Christian asked how state and federal data-sharing systems function, particularly regarding automatic reporting flows from local labs to CDPH and CDC. She inquired whether a national database is accessible for real-time review of state-by-state infection rates. She also asked for clarification on how commercial lab results trigger local epidemiologic follow-up, especially in the case of emerging pathogens. Finally, she expressed strong appreciation for the laboratory's high capacity in specialized testing. Dr. Seema Jain, MD, FISHA, San Francisco Deputy Health Officer and Deputy Director of Public Health Services, Population Health Division, explained that all positive reportable results flow from local laboratories into the state's CalREDIE system, which then transmits to CDPH and CDC. She noted that state-level infectious disease data are publicly available online, updated weekly or monthly depending on the pathogen. She also clarified that commercial laboratory detections are automatically routed to local epidemiologists for investigation and confirmation.

Commissioner Christian asked how a July 2025 feline H5N1 case was detected and how it reached the public health lab. She also inquired about the number of BSL-4 level facilities in California. Finally, the commissioner asked for clarification on the staged move into the new laboratory space and how parallel testing would be conducted during the transition. Dr. Masinde stated the feline H5N1 sample originated in a commercial lab and was referred to the public health lab for confirmation. He noted CDC maintains the primary BSL-4 facility, with very few such labs nationwide. He explained that parallel testing requires duplicating and validating equipment in both the current and new facilities before shifting operations.

5. Other Business

Public Comment:

There was no public comment on this item.

Commissioner Comments:

There were no commissioner comments.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36pm.