



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 June 21, 2022

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>

Today, there are over 149,700 San Francisco residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19. And, sadly, a total of 894 San Franciscans have died. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) sends our condolences to their loved ones.

SAN FRANCISCO OPENS TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED ADULTS WITH MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE NEEDS

Mayor London N. Breed, DPH, and the San Francisco Adult Probation Department (SFAPD) announced the opening of a new transitional housing facility at 509 Minna Street for justice-involved adults who are experiencing homelessness and have complex mental health and substance use disorders.

The Minna Project is a partnership between DPH and SFAPD in collaboration with community partners Westside Community Services for program and property management. The 75-bed facility provides wraparound services designed to aid the transition to independent living after involvement with the justice system. The services include outpatient mental health and substance use disorder treatment; case management; medication management; support groups; and recreational activities. The Minna Project also supports participants in recovery through group therapy, peer support, and medication-assisted treatment for substance use disorders.

Individuals with behavioral health needs are overrepresented in the justice system, with up to one-third of all jail inmates receiving behavioral healthcare. This population is also disproportionately affected by homelessness and the overdose epidemic.

The Minna Project will help participants achieve their goal to live independently. The facility premises will be maintained as an alcohol and drug free environment to create a safe space. If participants use drugs, DPH and SFAPD staff will do whatever it takes to help people with mental health or drug use conditions maintain their residence and move towards wellness and recovery.

The Reentry Division of SFAPD will coordinate the delivery of onsite services through community partners. This team, led by formerly incarcerated people, has developed a portfolio of reentry and



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rehabilitative programs for justice-involved adults that promote recovery and independence. DPH will fund the transitional housing program and develop the clinical behavioral healthcare services available for Minna Project participants.

The new facility at 509 Minna adds 75 beds to DPH's residential care and treatment programs and is part of a 400-bed expansion over the coming years to provide more spaces and overnight options. After 509 Minna opens, DPH will have opened 70 percent or 268, of the planned 400 new beds. The facility soft launched in early May, connecting initial guests to community services until the program ramps up for onsite wraparound services by Fall.

THREE ADDITIONAL PROBABLE CASES OF MONKEYPOX IDENTIFIED IN SAN FRANCISCO RESIDENTS

DPH has announced three additional probable cases of monkeypox that have been identified in San Francisco residents through testing at a California Department of Public Health laboratory in Richmond, CA. These three additional cases follow a first probable case two weeks ago, bringing the total probable case count in San Francisco to four.

DPH is awaiting confirmation of monkeypox for all four cases from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In the cases reported, one of the individuals reported to have traveled within the U.S. recently while the other two individuals did not. All three individuals are in isolation and in good health condition.

The risk to the general population from this virus is believed to be low. Having close physical contact, including sex, with multiple people can put a person at higher risk for monkeypox.

There is still more to learn about the conditions in which monkeypox is spreading, and people can expect that public health guidance will evolve accordingly. It is currently understood that monkeypox can spread through activities that include intimate sexual contact, kissing, breathing at very close range, or sharing bedding and clothing. It appears as a distinctive rash or sores on the skin anywhere on the body, including in the genital area. It often begins as flu-like symptoms.

While we are seeing a cluster of cases appearing nationally and internationally, monkeypox remains rare, and there are other contagious illnesses that can cause rash or skin lesions. For example, syphilis and herpes are much more common than monkeypox, can appear similar, and should be treated too.



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Individuals who may have been exposed to monkeypox, or who [have symptoms](#), should immediately contact their health care provider for evaluation and guidance. Clinicians should report suspected monkeypox cases to [DPH Communicable Disease Control](#).

DPH anticipates that more cases of monkeypox could occur in San Francisco. DPH is monitoring updates and guidance from the CDC and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) on the evolving situation. DPH systems are in place to receive reports of suspected cases from health care providers; identify and reach out to any individuals who have been in contact with cases during their infectious period; and ensure that clinicians remain well informed about testing, infection control and management of monkeypox as the situation develops. CDPH has procured the Jynneos vaccine to distribute to counties for preventative use in people who are identified as close contacts.

Most of the recent cases of monkeypox globally are among individuals who self-identify as gay men or men who have sex with men, which may put individuals in this community at higher risk of infection. However, anyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, can become infected with and spread monkeypox.

How to protect yourself:

- Cover exposed skin in dense, indoor crowds
- Don't share bedding, clothing, and food or drink with others
- Talk to close physical contacts about their general health like recent rashes or sores
- Stay aware if traveling to countries where there are outbreaks

If you have symptoms particularly a rash consistent with monkeypox, or if you have been in contact with someone who has been diagnosed with monkeypox:

- Cover the area of the rash with clean, dry, loose-fitting clothing
- Wear a well-fitted mask
- Avoid skin-to-skin, or close contact with others, including sexual contact, until a medical evaluation has been completed
- Contact a health care provider as soon as possible for an evaluation
- Assist public health officials to track others who may have been exposed
- Inform sex partners of symptoms

How to get help if you don't have a doctor:

If you do not have a provider, or have difficulty scheduling an appointment, you can be seen at SF City Clinic at 7th Street San Francisco (628-217-6600) or at Strut located 470 Castro Street (415-581-1600).



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Additional San Francisco cases will be reported at: [SF.gov/monkeypox](https://sf.gov/monkeypox)

Information about how to gather safely and about safer sex can be found at:
<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/sexualhealth/social.html>

HIGHLIGHTING THE WORK OF DPH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH'S AGRICULTURAL INSPECTORS

The San Francisco Agricultural Commissioner, Cree Morgan, and his program are housed in DPH's Environmental Health Branch. Every day a team of two inspectors from this program are tasked with conducting inspections of incoming shipments of plants and other agricultural products to ensure that regulated pests are not imported into San Francisco or the State of California. During a routine inspection at the FedEx facility in San Francisco these inspectors were investigating a shipment of plants from Florida. Upon inspection of the plants, live suspect pests were found on the underside of the plant leaves. Pest samples were collected and submitted to the State Plant Pest Diagnostic Laboratory. The lab was able to identify two A-rated pests, mango shield scale and masked scale. A notice of rejection was issued for violating the California Food and Agricultural Code. This is just one example of the very important work our Agricultural Inspector's, Chad Porter and Victor Rabinovich, do every day to protect San Francisco from unwanted pests.

NEW GRANT FUNDING AWARDED TO DPH'S MATERNAL CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH

DPH Maternal Child Adolescent Health has been awarded Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Title V Innovation Grant to support the launch of an Interagency Collaborative Council on CYSHCN. This \$1.3 million in funding over a 3.5 year period will aim to:

1. Center authentic engagement of youth and families in systems improvements with an emphasis on youth and families from historically excluded communities.
2. Improve coordination across systems, and between those systems and the youth and families they serve.
3. Build a collaborative that is meaningfully and financially sustainable beyond the grant-funded period.
4. Build data capacity of the collaborative to better understand the needs of families with CYSHCN in San Francisco.

FCS VACCINE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

To address disproportionately low rates of COVID vaccination amongst foster youth, DPH has



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collaborated extensively with many partners (DPH's Neighborhood and Equity Branch and Community Branch, housed within the COVID Task Force; MCAH; Human Services Agency (HAS), FCS's Public Health Nursing team, Guardian Scholars Program at SF State & SF City College, the HOPE Scholars at UC Berkley; SFUSD; UCSF School of Medicine; and the Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP); Horizons Unlimited and Galaria de La Raza) to build a youth focused **Vaccine Ambassador Program**.

- In March-May of 2022, **20** Foster Youth Vaccine Ambassadors were trained on COVID-19 vaccination information and motivational interviewing skills. **14** of the ambassadors took an English course and provided feedback in focus groups facilitated by UCSF's PRIME medical students. **6** of the ambassadors were trained in Spanish with an updated training based on the feedback of the initial 14.
- At the request of youth, we built a summer internship (funded by Mayor Breed's program, *Opportunities for All*) that 7 interns (a \$1500 stipend) and one advanced fellow (\$2500) will be doing for five weeks this summer. ILSP is hosting the internship, with programmatic support from partners listed above.
- DPH's Office of Health Equity will be starting a youth focused career development pipeline program, and has demonstrated commitment to prioritizing foster youth in FY 22-23. We are excited to try to build on the work of the summer internship to continue to empower foster youth around health equity, and hope that this may be a pipeline that is established and continues for many years to come.

DPH TRAUMA INFORMED SYSTEMS TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

On June 27th at 1:00pm, DPH staff are invited to attend an Intro to Mindfulness training from Jenee Johnson, Program Innovation Leader. Find out more by visiting the Eventbrite link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/349019596007>

[DPH in the News](#)