



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 **August 3, 2021**

A current overview of issues affecting the state of public health in San Francisco
<https://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/insideDept/dirRpts/default.asp>

Today, there are over 40,000 San Francisco residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19. And, sadly, a total of 561 San Franciscans have died. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) sends our condolences to their loved ones.

Contra Costa, Santa Clara, and San Francisco County Public Health Officials urge employers to consider requiring employee vaccination to promote COVID-safe workplaces

With COVID-19 cases rapidly on the rise, leaving unvaccinated individuals at risk for serious illness and death, the health officers of Contra Costa, Santa Clara, and San Francisco counties strongly urge all employers to consider implementing workplace COVID-19 safety policies that require their workforce to get fully vaccinated as soon as possible.

For any employees who are not yet fully vaccinated, employers must require and enforce masking under current state law. In addition, employers are encouraged to require frequent COVID-19 testing of unvaccinated employees.

The relaxing of community and workplace transmission protections since mid-June in California and the rapid spread of the Delta variant of COVID-19, which is much more contagious than the original strains of the virus, have led to significantly higher case rates, and a higher risk of transmission at businesses and workplaces as a result.

Employers can play a critical role in ensuring a safe workplace environment and boosting vaccination rates among working-age individuals by requiring vaccination as a condition of employment, with very limited exceptions for medical exemptions or strongly held religious beliefs.

Local and national data show that fully vaccinated people are far less likely to catch COVID-19 or require hospitalization than people who are unvaccinated.

Requiring documentation of COVID-19 vaccination rather than self-attestation is recommended as a best practice for employers to ensure workers are adhering to the appropriate workplace protections.

Current state and federal employment law support employers requiring documentation of vaccination status, requiring vaccination as a condition of employment, and requiring additional safety precautions including masking and frequent testing for employees who are unvaccinated. Resources are available via the [California Department of Fair Employment and Housing](#).



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For information about finding a safe, free and convenient COVID-19 vaccine, visit sf.gov/getvaccinated.

Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma, and the City of Berkeley recommend masking indoors for everyone as a precaution against increased circulation of COVID-19

With cases of COVID-19 rising locally and increased circulation of the highly transmissible Delta variant, the Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma, and the City of Berkeley recommend that everyone, regardless of vaccination status, wear masks indoors in public places to ensure easy verification that all unvaccinated people are masked in those settings and as an extra precautionary measure for all.

In June, the Delta variants comprised [43 percent of all specimens sequenced in California](#). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) noted that Delta variants are now responsible for [58 percent of new infections across the country](#).

Fully vaccinated people are well-protected from infections and serious illness due to known COVID-19 variants including Delta variants, and vaccinating as many people as possible, as soon as possible, continues to be our best defense against severe COVID-19 infection, and the harm it can do to our region. Vaccines are safe, effective, free, and widely available to everyone 12 and older. Out of an abundance of caution, people are recommended to wear masks indoors in settings like grocery or retail stores, theaters, and family entertainment centers, even if they are fully vaccinated as an added layer of protection for unvaccinated residents. Businesses are urged to adopt universal masking requirements for customers entering indoor areas of their businesses to provide better protection to their employees and customers. [Workplaces must comply with Cal/OSHA requirements](#) and fully vaccinated employees are encouraged to wear masks indoors if their employer has not confirmed the vaccination status of those around them.

Bay Area Health Officers will revisit this recommendation in the coming weeks as they continue to monitor transmission rates, hospitalizations, deaths, and increasing vaccination rates throughout the region. Data can be monitored here: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>
For masks to work properly, they need to completely cover your nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of your face and around your nose.

People are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. People with only one vaccine dose of Pfizer or Moderna are not fully protected. Completion of the vaccine series is necessary to provide full protection.

Visit sf.gov/getvaccinated to learn where you can find a vaccination site near you or call 628-652-



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2700 to book an appointment, find a drop-in site, or if you have questions about the vaccine. If you missed your second dose, please find a vaccination clinic near you.

Mayor Breed announces SF is implementing a significant expansion of treatment beds for people suffering from mental health and substance use disorders

On July 22, Mayor London N. Breed and DPH announced that San Francisco is implementing the expansion of over 400 new treatment beds for people experiencing mental health and substance use issues. This expansion of treatment beds will provide more options for people in need to receive appropriate services that match their situation, while also providing San Francisco's new Street Response Teams with additional placements for clients they interact with.

The expansion plans represent a 20% increase in the City's residential treatment capacity. In 2021 alone, San Francisco will see 140 new beds opened, with significant progress made toward filling the gaps in critical needs areas identified in the 2020 Behavioral Health Bed Optimization Report. Since Mayor Breed took office, San Francisco has added more than 100 treatment beds across San Francisco's system of care.

These new treatment beds will allow San Francisco's new street outreach teams, including the Street Crisis Response Teams and the Street Wellness Response Teams, with additional placements that can serve the clients they interact with. There are now five Street Crisis Response Teams operating in San Francisco, responding to about 500 calls monthly. Mayor Breed included funding in this year's budget for five Street Wellness Response Teams, which will begin to respond to "wellness check" calls, which total roughly 17,000 annually.

The expansion effort is guided by recommendations from the Behavioral Health Bed Optimization Project report in 2020, as well as the Mental Health SF legislation in 2019, and utilization data that identified the types of treatment in highest need. These new beds and facilities are at various stages of development, with some ready for opening in 2021 and others in stages of planning and design. Several innovative types of treatment and care programs designed to meet the diverse needs of people with behavioral health challenges are being developed, including:

- The 20-bed SOMA RISE Center will open in the fall of 2021 as part of the City's response to the drug overdose crisis. It will offer a safe indoor space for people who have used methamphetamine or other substances, monitor their health while intoxicated, and connecting them with other health and social services.
- A 10-bed residential treatment facility specifically designed to treat young adults with serious mental health and/or substance use disorders is under design.
- Neighborhood-based psychiatric respite facilities for people experiencing homelessness to shelter in a safe, supportive environment where they can also access ongoing care.

Meanwhile, as board-and-care homes shutter due to the escalating costs of housing, DPH is also in



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active negotiations to acquire facilities to accommodate at least 73 residential care beds to support people with mental health issues who require assistance with activities of daily living. Some of these will support the elderly. Critically, DPH is also creating 140 new beds to support people leaving residential substance use treatment – a last step in skill-building before independent housing. In May, DPH, alongside community partners PRC/Baker Places, the Salvation Army, and Tipping Point Community opened Hummingbird Valencia, a psychiatric respite facility for people experiencing homelessness in the Mission and Castro neighborhoods. It is now operating at full capacity with 30 overnight beds and 20 daytime drop-in spaces.

For the latest update on San Francisco's residential care and treatment expansion, go to: sf.gov/residential-care-and-treatment.

San Francisco has also made available a daily update of available mental health and substance use treatment beds at: FindTreatmentSF.org.

Board of Supervisors pass Mayor Breed's final approved public health budget

On July 27, the Board of Supervisors passed on final reading the Mayor's approved budget. Overall DPH's budget remains at \$2.82 billion for FY 2021-22 and \$2.76 billion in FY 2022-23, with only minor changes described below. We are pleased that our proposed initiatives remain intact and additional critical services have been funded and are grateful for the support we have received from the Mayor's Office and Board of Supervisors.

As part of the review by the Budget and Legislative Analyst, DPH's budget was reduced by \$3.4 million in FY 2021-2022 and \$1.3 million in FY 2022-2023. The proposed reductions cuts are at a similar level those of prior years and represent less than 1% of DPH's total budget. They are administrative in nature and will not affect our ability to deliver services or our ability to provide an effective COVID response.

Offsetting the reductions, the Board of Supervisors allocated back \$2.76 million in FY 2021-22 and \$1.683M in FY 22-23 for services at DPH. The programs initially assigned to DPH are outlined below.



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Programs	FY2122	FY2223
3% CODB increase for Ryan White contracts, commensurate with General Fund CODB	350,000	350,000
Mental health services for long term HIV survivors	200,000	200,000
Support for a new LGBTQ health building in the Trans District	750,000	
Two additional staff positions to coordinate case management and case advocacy, housing and behavioral health access for community members facing barriers in navigating these systems	140,000	
Funding to continue a community-based partnership program for more localized, accessible food security through prepared meals and job training	125,000	-
Funding to continue a community-based partnership program for more localized, accessible food security through prepared meals and job training for D5 families	32,000	-
Funding for a drop-in center for PEH in the Haight, which is deeply needed to improve lives and connections to resources people need to exit homelessness	90,000	133,000
Funding to continue a community-based partnership program for more localized, accessible food security through prepared meals and job training	34,000	
HIV services for D10 residents	20,000	
District 11 CBO Convening on Mental Health	15,000	
Sustain services for survivors of Gender-Based violence in San Francisco with culturally specific programs.	1,000,000	1,000,000
Total	2,756,000	1,683,000

San Francisco and four other Bay Area counties join forces to #DeliverBirthJustice campaign to push for equity in Black maternal health and infant health

On July 22, San Francisco, in partnership with Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara and Solano counties announced #DeliverBirthJustice (DeliverBirthJustice.org), a regional public awareness campaign that puts birth justice for Black families front and center in the fight for racial justice in the Bay Area. The regional campaign highlights racism as a crisis that results in the deaths of Black women and infants at a disproportionate rate compared to other racial groups.

The campaign is part of the Perinatal Equity Initiative, a statewide effort by the California Department of Public Health that identifies best practices to address the causes of persistent inequity and health disparities that threaten Black infant and maternal health. #DeliverBirthJustice aims to mobilize all corners of the Bay Area, from health professionals to policy makers to community members, to take action against social and environmental risk factors that harm Black families.

Research shows that Black babies in the Bay Area are two to three times more likely to be born too soon or too small, or to die before their first birthday. Black moms are three to four times more likely to die during pregnancy or childbirth. These disparities persist despite the level of education Black mothers have, their income, where they live, or their health habits. The structural and social racism Black people experience throughout their lives, and the bias they encounter from health



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professionals during their birthing experience, are the root causes. For example, Black women and birthing people in the Bay Area are twice as likely to live in poverty than other county residents and to report experiencing more hardships during pregnancy, such as homelessness, loss of a loved one or food insecurity. Almost half of Black/African Americans in California report that they have experienced unfair treatment getting medical care due to their race.

The campaign is informed by the testimonies of Black families from throughout the five counties, who shared harmful experiences with healthcare and other systems. Through the campaign, county leaders will provide in person and online opportunities for Black mothers and families to share stories related to birth justice.

Birth justice is even more pivotal during the COVID-19 pandemic which disproportionately affected Black and Brown communities nationwide. The campaign will work with policy makers to highlight policies that disrupt structural racism and help Black families have healthy births, such as improving access to safe and quality housing, nutritious food, and reliable and safe public transportation, as well as expanding health protections such as sick leave and family leave. Recommendations for health professionals include anti-racist and implicit bias training, partnering with doulas and midwives in hospitals, and implementing systems for reporting and addressing incidents of racism in health institutions.

For more information about the campaign, visit deliverbirthjustice.org.

DPH in the News

- Jul 28 2021, Chronicle: [COVID cases are up, but how big a risk is delta variant for Bay Area kids?](#)
- Jul 27 2021, BCN: [Some SF bars may require COVID vaccination proof for indoor service](#)
- Jul 26 2021, KCBS: [The opioid epidemic within the pandemic continues in San Francisco](#)
- Jul 26 2021, Chronicle: [Overdose reversal drug Narcan has already been used more than 4,200 times in S.F. this year](#)
- Jul 25 2021, Examiner: [Lesson from a 107-year-old man who is now fully vaccinated](#)
- Jul 25 2021, CA News: [SF Just Recorded As Many New COVID Cases In a Day As In Mid-January](#)
- Jul 24 2021, KTVU: [Three factors that could be contributing to San Francisco's surge in COVID cases](#)
- Jul 23 2021, SHRM: [San Francisco Clarifies Vaccination Mandate for High-Risk Jobs](#)
- Jul 23 2021, LA Times: [Bay Area health officials urge employers to require workers to be vaccinated](#)
- Jul 23 2021, BCN: [Bay Area health officials urge employers to consider employee vaccine requirements](#)
- Jul 23 2021, CNN: [Did the US miss its opportunity with COVID-19 contact tracing? Here's what experts say](#)
- Jul 23 2021, BCN: [San Francisco adding 400 new drug and mental health treatment beds](#)
- Jul 23 2021, Chronicle: [S.F.'s coronavirus case rate now rivals California's. What's going on?](#)
- Jul 23 2021, Examiner: ['Food is a human right,' so why do so many in San Francisco go without?](#)



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- Jul 22 2021, PR Newswire: [Five Bay Area Counties Join Forces to Launch #DeliverBirthJustice Campaign to Push for Equity in Black Maternal Health and Infant Health](#)
- Jul 22 2021, BCN: [How San Francisco is committing to mental health and substance abuse services](#)
- Jul 22 2021, KCBS: [San Francisco aims to add 400 treatment beds for mental health, substance abuse](#)
- Jul 22 2021, Chronicle: [S.F. expands authority to impose mental health holds. Paramedics can now place people in confinement](#)
- Jul 22 2021, Mirage: [An HIV vaccine: who needs it?](#)
- Jul 22 2021, KRON: [COVID-19 hospitalizations increasing across the Bay Area](#)
- Jul 22 2021, Chronicle: [Delta and lambda variants in California: What you need to know](#)
- Jul 22 2021, Chronicle: [Bay Area counties target racism in the maternity ward](#)
- Jul 22 2021, CBS: [Mandatory Workplace Vaccinations Urged In Contra Costa, Santa Clara County, San Francisco](#)
- Jul 22 2021, KGO: [3 Bay Area counties urge employers to require COVID-19 vaccinations for employees](#)
- Jul 22, 2021, Chronicle: [Bay Area counties urge employers to require universal COVID-19 vaccination policies](#)
- Jul 22 2021, Hoodline: [SF bars and restaurants begin checking for vaccination proof at the door](#)
- Jul 21 2021, Chronicle: [San Francisco mulls requiring proof of vaccination at businesses like bars and restaurants](#)
- Jul 21 2021, ABC: [California's timeline to reach herd immunity 'delayed past the fall' due to delta variant, doctors say](#)
- Jul 21 2021, Mission Local: [Your questions on the delta variant, masking recommendations, and more answered by SF's health officer](#)
- Jul 21 2021, BAR: [In-person Castro Street Fair set to return](#)
- Jul 20 2021, Mission Local: [As Delta variant hits unvaccinated in white and Black communities, community docs encourage vaccination](#)
- Jul 20 2021, KGO: ['Pandemic of the unvaccinated': Bay Area doctor says cases could overwhelm hospitals within 4 weeks](#)
- Jul 20 2021, KTVU: [San Francisco bars could soon require patrons to show proof of vaccination](#)
- Jul 19 2021, KGO: [San Francisco cracking down on illegal vendors at Fisherman's Wharf](#)
- Jul 19 2021, Chronicle: [Is indoor dining still OK under new mask guidance? Here's what Bay Area health experts say](#)
- Jul 19 2021, Chronicle: [Who is the coronavirus surge impacting in San Francisco?](#)
- Jul 19 2021, Gate: [New mask guidance is here: What to know in San Francisco Bay Area](#)
- Jul 19 2021, Live Action: [Pro-life groups protest UCSF's aborted fetal organ harvesting](#)
- Jul 18 2021, NBC: [Masks Are Again Required Indoors in LA County. Here's What to Know](#)
- Jul 17 2021, NBC: [Bay Area Counties Hold Night Time Vaccine Clinics to Better Accessibility](#)
- Jul 16 2021, KQED: [Wear Masks Indoors Again Even if You're Vaccinated, Bay Area Health Officials Urge](#)
- Jul 16 2021, Eater SF: [Bay Area Counties Recommend Masks Indoors as Delta Variant Numbers Continue to Rise](#)
- Jul 16 2021, Gate: [7 SF Bay Area counties recommend - but don't require - indoor masks for vaccinated individuals](#)



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- Jul 16, 2021, CBS: [San Francisco Health Officials Warn of Delta Variant Danger – ‘COVID on Steroids’](#)
- Jul 16 2021, CBS: [San Francisco Bay Area Health Officials Urge All Residents To Voluntarily Wear Masks Indoors](#)
- Jul 16 2021, Mercury: [California health officials mull masks for vaccinated amid COVID surge](#)
- Jul 16 2021, CA News: [Bay Area Health Officers Urge Residents to Wear Masks Again in Indoor Public Spaces, Voluntarily](#)
- Jul 15 2021, Chronicle: [S.F. officials sound alarm on rising cases in Black, Latino communities as delta variant spreads](#)
- Jul 15 2021, Christian News: [Some Health Officials Endanger Our Health](#)
- Jul 9 2021, Health Leaders: [Most U.S. nonprofit hospitals neglect community investment obligation](#)