



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 November 15, 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 181,500 San Francisco residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19. And, sadly, a total of 1,065 San Franciscans have died. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) sends our condolences to their loved ones.

SAN FRANCISCANS URGED TO PREPARE FOR COVID-19 AND INFLUENZA AS HOLIDAY SEASON APPROACHES

DPH encourages San Franciscans to prepare for the upcoming holiday season by taking simple measures to protect themselves and others against COVID-19 and influenza (flu).

This winter could bring a resurgence in influenza cases, and COVID-19 cases, now low, will likely increase as people travel and gather indoors. San Franciscans are encouraged to prepare by getting their COVID-19 bivalent booster, annual flu vaccine, and connecting to a health care provider to learn if you are eligible for COVID-19 treatments. Additionally, keeping items on hand such as masks and COVID-19 rapid test kits that can help prevent and manage illness while reducing the spread of viruses to loved ones and others.

For some people, COVID-19 can cause long term symptoms after infection. While vaccines can reduce these risks, they do not eliminate them. People should factor this into their prevention planning for the holidays. Additionally, this year there are special "senior" flu vaccines recommended for people ages 65 and older that are designed to generate a stronger immune response than the standard flu vaccine in older adults. COVID-19 and flu vaccines may be given together, and both vaccines are widely available across health systems, in pharmacies, and in community health clinics.

DPH is also aware of the rising cases of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in the United States. RSV is a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms. While the vast majority of people with RSV recover without incident, it can sometimes result in more serious illness in infants and older adults.



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While there is no vaccine for RSV, it is important to protect those who are at risk of severe RSV complications by getting vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19 and influenza if eligible, because being infected with more than one virus can increase the risk of severe disease. While very young infants cannot get vaccinated, those around them can.

DPH encourages people to prepare for the holidays in the following ways:

- Get the COVID-19 bivalent booster, now available for those aged five years and older if it has been at least two months since their last dose
- Get the influenza vaccine, available for those aged 6 months and older
- Get connected to a healthcare provider in case you get sick
- Know in advance if you are someone who would benefit from treatment with a medicine for COVID-19, as these medicines must be started early
- Stock up on COVID-19 rapid test kits. Those with insurance are able to get at-home tests for free or be reimbursed
- Keep a well-fitted mask on hand for crowded, indoor spaces (N95 or KN95 are best)
- Wash hands frequently
- Avoid contact with those at highest risk of getting sick, such as infants, if you have cold symptoms
- Make a backup plan for travel, caregiving, and other responsibilities
- Importantly, stay home when sick

Health care providers are the first place to go for health care needs related to COVID-19 and the flu. For those without health insurance or who face barriers in accessing care, DPH provides support, including vaccinations, through a network of DPH-affiliated sites. This includes several “test to treat” sites where people can be tested for COVID-19 and, if positive, receive antiviral treatment in the same visit if they meet the medical eligibility.

For more information about the COVID-19 bivalent booster, go to: sf.gov/get-your-covid-19-booster

For more information on how to access DPH-affiliated health sites if you are uninsured or face barriers to care, go to: sf.gov/information/public-healthcare-sites-san-francisco

For more information about flu vaccines, go to: sf.gov/flu-vaccines

For more information about RSV prevention, go to: www.cdc.gov/rsv/about/prevention.html



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ZSFG HOSTS UKRANIAN HEALTHCARE DELEGATION

On November 7, Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital (ZSFG) hosted a delegation of Ukrainian doctors and hospital administrators who were in the Bay Area for a learning tour of the American healthcare system. Organized by the Concord Rotary Club and the Congressional Office for International Leadership, the delegation's visit to ZSFG promoted collaboration on best practices for health care administration as well as highlighted ZSFG's trauma, emergency room, and refugee services. We highlighted how immigration intersects with health care and reinforced the concept that successful resettlement starts with good coordinated and patient-centered healthcare.

We were thrilled to showcase our Emergency Department, Critical Care, and Med-Surg clinical units. To supplement the tour, the delegation received presentations on the Trauma Recovery Center, the Survivors International Program, and the Newcomers Health Program, which is housed within the Family Health Center. The group learned about the unique characteristics of Ukrainian refugees who have received services at ZSFG.

Thank you to Drs. Elena Fuentes-Afflick, Lukejohn Day, Christopher Colwell, Joseph Cuschieri, Mark Leary, Sarah Metz and Cristy Dieterich, Jeff Schmidt and Tatyana Vovchok for welcoming and touring the group and making the visit a successful collaborative event.

Participants included the Ukraine's Ministry of Health as well as doctors and representatives from several regional hospitals throughout Ukraine.

NEW TOBACCO SALES INFOGRAPHIC FOR SAN FRANCISCO RETAILERS

The Environmental Health Branch's Retail Tobacco Program developed an infographic as educational material for online tobacco distributors and retailers called, "6 Things to Know about Tobacco Sales in San Francisco." This is the first educational and outreach material created by the program targeting online distribution and retail tobacco businesses. Tobacco consumption continues to be the number one preventable cause of death in the U.S. and claims nearly a half million lives each year. The funding for the creation of these outreach materials was provided through a Department of Justice grant. This innovative approach was lead by Senior Inspector Janine Young and developed by Environmental Health Branch Trainees, Brandon Lagman and Maribel Rodriquez, interns Kathy Dao, Sennua Hunter, and Ananya Wondyfraw hired through the Mayor's Opportunities for All program, and in partnership with the Community Health Equity & Prevention Branch's Tobacco Free Project. The "6 Things to Know about Tobacco Sales in San Francisco" will be found on the Environmental Health Branch's website and translated in several different languages



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in the coming months.

DPH STAFF RECOGNIZE DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

On November 2, the Population Health Division and the COVID-19 Taskforce Equity and Community Engagement team led the Latine Heritage Month Celebration, celebrating and honoring DPH colleagues that have recently passed for Dia de los Muertos. Christina Sanz-Rodriguez emceed the event, Edgar Zamudio provided an overview of the significance and history of this celebration, and Dr. Berta Hernandez and Jazmin Barrera led the in-person ceremony and set up the altar. The following DPH staff's lives were honored and celebrated at this first of its kind team event: Israel Nieves-Rivera, Jose Maria Garza, Quijuan Maloof, and Maria X Martinez. Special thanks to Daisy Aguillo, Deputy Director of Population Health Division and Isela Ford, Deputy Director of Equity and Community Engagement, for their leadership and support.

MPX UPDATE

LOCATION	TOTAL CASES AS OF 11/5/22 (probable and confirmed)
San Francisco	833
California	5,547
U.S.	28,881
Worldwide	79,231

COVID-19 UPDATE

As of November 2:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of new COVID cases per day is 89 and 48 people are hospitalized, including 8 in the ICU.
- San Francisco's remaining ICU capacity is 32.6% and remaining non-ICU capacity is 16.6%.
- Eighty-six percent of all SF residents have been vaccinated and 64% have received booster dose(s).

[DPH in the News](#)