



## San Francisco Department of Public Health

Daniel Tsai  
Director of Health

City and County of San Francisco  
Daniel L. Lurie  
Mayor

# Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of November 17, 2025

*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 [test positivity](#) and will monitor other indicators including hospitalizations.*

## ENHANCED CLINICAL SERVICES BEGIN AT CENTRAL WATERFRONT NAVIGATION CENTER

DPH and the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) began offering enhanced clinical substance use treatment and recovery services at the Central Waterfront Navigation Center (CWNC) this month to better support unhoused people with substance use disorders in the Bayview-Hunter's Point neighborhood. The navigation center is not changing in size, scope or purpose but will have a new level of clinical services to meet the needs of the community. This is only for individuals at the shelter; it is not a walk-in treatment site or clinic.

By integrating medical and behavioral health care directly into shelters, the City is meeting people at the right moment and delivering the care they need, exactly when and where they need it. The approach is modeled after a clinical program named RESTORE, a successful DPH/HSH pilot that paired medication treatment and wraparound services with a shelter bed where people could stabilize while they begin their recovery journey. At the heart of the model is directly delivering medical and behavioral health support in a supportive environment, removing barriers, accelerating access, and giving people the best chance to begin recovery without delay.

To connect more people in the Bayview-Hunter's Point neighborhood to substance use care and mitigate overdose disparities, DPH in September launched a daytime outreach team in District 10 that prioritizes navigating unhoused Black/African American San Franciscans to treatment programs.

## COLLABORATION HELPS BRING RESIDENT BACK HOME TO LAGUNA HONDA

As November is Palliative Care Month, we are proud to share an example of two SF Health Network (SFHN) teams providing innovative patient-centered care to individuals at the end of their lives. In September, the ZSFG Cardiology team reached out about a patient with end-stage heart failure who wanted to return to Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH) for palliative care. The patient was eager to



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spend her remaining time in a more peaceful home-like environment while being able to have the extra time to spend with her family and friends. However, due to her condition, she required access to dobutamine, a life-sustaining IV medication that is rarely available in a long-term care environment and had never been provided at LHH before.

The Palliative Care Committee reviewed the case and decided it was an excellent opportunity to modify various policies and procedures for palliative care and make it possible to offer this unique treatment to residents receiving comfort care at LHH. Numerous staff in various areas of DPH helped make this happen, from aiding decision making, amending policy, procuring and ensuring supply availability, training nursing staff, and supporting the transfer, admission and stay of the resident. Each person played a critical role in ensuring that the resident has access to the care they need in the environment of their choosing.

### **POP-UP COMMUNITY VACCINE CLINICS**

This fall, the DPH Population Health Division has been organizing pop-up community vaccine events with community partners across the city to help older adults from vulnerable and higher-risk communities access COVID-19 and flu vaccines. Partners include NICOS Chinese Health Coalition, I.T. Bookman Community Center, Booker T. Washington Center, Senior and Disability Action, Disability Cultural Center, Interfaith Winter Shelter, Latino Task Force and Unidos en Salud, and the San Francisco Public Library. Please visit [sf.gov/vax](https://sf.gov/vax) for scheduled events later this fall and winter.

### **COVID AND FLU VACCINE PROMOTION**

This fall, DPH has been strongly encouraging San Franciscans to get the updated COVID-19 and flu vaccines. The Department recently released the latest edition of the "Hear From a Doctor" series promoting the vaccine in English, Spanish, and Chinese:

- [English video](#)
- [Spanish video](#)
- [Chinese video](#)

Launched this year, "Hear From a Doctor" is a social media campaign in which DPH doctors share public health advice on important topics. Past topics include heart disease, heat exhaustion, mpox, and how to access drug treatment.

### **THE SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL HOSPITAL FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2025 EQUITY AND INNOVATION GRANTS**

The San Francisco General Hospital Foundation announced the 2025 Equity and Innovation Grant recipients, honoring teams whose creative ideas are transforming care for our community. These



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\$100,000 grants, made possible by the generous support of BMO, provide valuable seed funding that helps ZSFG innovate and meet the diverse needs of our patients. Over the past 20 years, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1.14 million to support innovative, equity-driven work, many starting as small projects and growing to a mainstay of care across the state and nation. This year's grantees exemplify that spirit of innovation and equity, advancing projects that expand access to care and promote the health and well-being of our community.

Congratulations to Huizhen Li, Dr. Hieu Tran, Dr. Sri Padmanabhan and Dr. Jay Stewart for the expansion of the Eye Clinic. They will be expanding access to ophthalmology and optometry care and reducing wait times with new diagnostic equipment and hybrid visits, addressing critical barriers to timely care for diseases like cataracts and glaucoma.

And congratulations to Dr. Amy Beck, Tonya Vega, and the entire Healthy Lifestyles Clinic in the Children's Health Center who are focusing their grant on childhood obesity and linking children of low-income families with community resources for physical activity and healthy eating. These early interventions help prevent adverse health outcomes, such as diabetes, while also improving mental health.

### **ZSFG NAMES DIRECTOR OF MATERNAL AND CHILD NURSING**

ZSFG appointed Shilu Ramchand, RN, MS, CNS as its Director of Maternal and Child Nursing. Shilu brings nearly two decades of dedicated nursing leadership and clinical expertise. She served as a clinical nurse educator to Neonatal Clinical Nurse Specialist and her most recent position was as a Nurse Manager of the NICU and Pediatrics at ZSFG. Over the years, she has demonstrated exceptional skill in managing complex clinical operations, driving quality improvement initiatives, and fostering a supportive, compassionate environment for patients, families, and staff. Shilu led the transition to EPIC electronic documentation in the NICU and Pediatrics and collaborated across multidisciplinary teams to develop clinical workflows and policies; and visiting guidelines during the COVID pandemic. She drives numerous quality improvement projects focused on neonatal care, family-centered practices, and patient safety. She led the participation of the NICU in the MOMMS collaborative to improve exclusive maternal milk in extremely low birth weight neonates and has achieved 100% maternal milk feeding for ELBW neonates. Under her leadership, ZSFG NICU was named 2025 NICU of the year by the CA Breast Feeding Coalition.

### **ZSFG ANNOUNCES NEW ADMINISTRATOR ON DUTY**

ZSFG announced Dave Staconis, MSN, RN, FNP as a new Administrator on Duty (AOD). Dave has worked in the ZSFG Emergency Department (ED) for 19 years, during which he served in various roles including interim AOD, staff nurse, charge nurse, Nursing System Administrator for the Pulse Check, Nurse Manager, and Nursing Director. As a designated Charge Nurse, Dave served as a liaison between the nursing staff, hospital administration, department management, and attending



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physicians to coordinate patient care and admissions. Shortly after, Dave took the role of ED Performance Improvement Coordinator, where he was responsible for ensuring that the department adhered to organizational and professional standards to deliver high quality, competent healthcare to our patient population. He then transitioned into the role of ED Nurse Manager, managing the nursing, ancillary staff, and overall operation of the ED. Dave has also served on multiple department and hospital-wide committees, including NEC: Business and NEC: Quality and Safety.

### **ZSFG APPOINTS DIRECTOR OF PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT**

ZSFG appointed Kim To, MHS, LSSGB, CPHQ as Director of Performance Improvement. Kim has broad experience in implementing Performance Improvement in healthcare. She received her Master's of Health Science: Public Health, Population & Family Health Sciences from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt and a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality. Kim has worked both locally and nationally, most recently leading a Joint Venture Health Plan's Quality team to improve CMS Star Rating and Data integrity.

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

As of 11/12:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 1.5%.
- Seventeen percent of SF residents are fully up to date on their COVID vaccinations and have received the updated vaccine.