



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 December 1, 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.

DPH STATEMENT ON VACCINE SAFETY

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) is deeply concerned over recent federal actions that promote inaccurate information about the safety of vaccines, especially as the ongoing measles outbreak in the United States threatens to undo our national achievement of eliminating measles a quarter century ago.

The data are clear: vaccines do not cause autism, and there are no new data to suggest otherwise. Leading medical organizations, including the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) and the [Infectious Disease Society of America](#), have clearly stated this as well and continue to recommend routine childhood vaccinations.

A core responsibility of public health departments is to keep communities safe from disease. Vaccines are one of our most effective tools to prevent serious illness and death from communicable diseases among children and adults in San Francisco. DPH remains committed to following the data and will continue to strongly recommend safe and effective vaccines that protect and promote the health of all San Franciscans.

NAVY MEETING UPDATE

On November 17, members of the Population Health Division's Hunters Point Naval Shipyard Multi-Disciplinary Team attended the Bayview Hunters Point Shipyard Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting. The meeting featured a presentation from the U.S. Navy on the recent revelation that in November 2024 there was plutonium detected in an air sample at the Shipyard that exceeded the regulatory action level and the Navy delayed communication on the issue for 11 months. During the meeting, Dr. Susan Philip, San Francisco Public Health Officer and Population Health Division Director, reiterated the department's call to rigorously investigate the potential public health impacts of the exceedance and emphasized the need for the Navy to provide timely notification of exceedances to the public, regulatory agencies, and the department.



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Approximately 60 community members attended the meeting and over 20 people spoke in public comment. Members of the public expressed concern about the delayed communication on the exceedance and shared the importance of the need for the Navy to build public trust and confidence. The Navy acknowledged the shortcomings of its communication and committed to provide an update to the public on this issue at the next Citizen's Advisory Committee in January 2026.

DPH continues to review air monitoring data provided by the Navy in collaboration with the regulatory agencies, including Environment Protection Agency, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, and California Department of Public Health. DPH has communicated to the public that there is no immediate public health concern as result of the exceedance. Additionally, DPH continues to closely partner with community members, stakeholders, and leaders on communications regarding the exceedance and ongoing public reporting of air monitoring results.

PHD LAUNCHES UPDATED RESPIRATORY VIRUS HOSPITALIZATION DASHBOARD

The Population Health Division recently launched an updated respiratory virus hospitalization dashboard on the DPH website. This new dashboard tracks not only COVID hospital admissions in San Francisco, but also hospital admissions for flu and RSV. Thank you to the Communicable Disease, ARCHES, and Center for Data Science teams for keeping San Franciscans informed during respiratory virus season.

Members of the public may view the dashboard here: <https://www.sf.gov/respiratory-virus-hospitalizations>

SAN FRANCISCO HEALTH SERVICE SYSTEM RECOGNIZES DPH HOSPITALS' CARE EXPERIENCE TEAM

On November 19, the San Francisco Health Service System recognized the ZSFG and Laguna Honda Hospital Care Experience team with an Honorable Mention in their biennial Well-being@Work Award ceremony. This special recognition celebrates departments that are actively fostering a culture of well-being through supportive practices with creative activities, everyday well-being practices, and creating a space where employees feel valued and supported. The recognition celebrates the team's commitment to creating a healthier, more connected workplace for all. Congratulations to the entire team!

ZSFG LAUNCHES CANCER CARE WEBSITE

ZSFG launched a new [Cancer Care](#) website in November. This site serves as a "roadmap to cancer care," designed to help patients and families navigate what can often feel like a complex and overwhelming journey. The website brings trusted information and resources into one place,



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reflecting the diverse needs of our community and helping patients feel guided, informed, and supported every step of the way.

The website was created through true collaboration, bringing together Cancer Program care teams, the Communications and Patient Experience departments, and most importantly, the voices that guide everything we do: our patients!

What the site offers:

- Information about care, services, and next steps.
- Resources that reflect the needs of our diverse patient population at ZSFG.
- Tools to help patients make decisions that feel right for them.

We hope this becomes a space of clarity, trust, and care—for everyone who needs it. Visit the site at <https://www.zuckerbergsanfranciscogeneral.org/integrated-care/cancer-care/>.

ZSFG HOSTS MAYOR LURIE'S CHIEF OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

It was a pleasure to welcome Mayor Lurie's Chief of Health and Human Services, Kunal Modi to the ZSFG campus this month. As the only Trauma Center serving San Francisco and Northern San Mateo County, we were proud to showcase our Emergency and Trauma Care, Psychiatric Emergency Services and our medical surgical teams among many other vital services. Just this last year, we served more than 104,000 patients, that's one in eight San Franciscans! We also provided care at 73,000 medical and psychiatric emergency visits, delivered more than 1,200 babies and saw nearly 300,000 patients at our clinics. A highlight of the tour included discussing substance use disorder with our Addiction Care Team. This interdisciplinary team of doctors, nurses, patient navigators, nurse practitioners, and social workers makes sure that no matter why people are coming to ZSFG, they have access to skilled, compassionate addiction care, an essential part of San Francisco's addiction treatment continuum.

ZSFG ANNOUNCES NEW MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF RISK MANAGEMENT AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

Dr. Carolyn Hendrickson has been appointed as the new Medical Director of Risk Management and Regulatory Affairs for ZSFG. Dr. Hendrickson brings a wealth of leadership experience, interdisciplinary collaboration, and a steadfast commitment to patient safety and advocacy to this vital role. As Medical Director, she will provide programmatic oversight and facilitative leadership for risk management initiatives, including chairing the Event Analysis and Systems Improvement Committee, supporting proactive assessments of patient safety vulnerabilities, partnering with Risk Management teams to oversee the SAFE system, and advancing the principles of Just Culture. Dr. Hendrickson's credentials and experiences uniquely position her to take on this leadership role. For more than six years, she has served as the Medical Director of the Medical ICU at ZSFG, where she



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has overseen SAFE reports, led monthly Morbidity and Mortality conferences, and fostered cross-disciplinary collaboration to enhance patient care and safety. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Hendrickson on her new leadership role and welcoming her to the Risk Management and Regulatory Affairs team.

COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 11/25:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 1.0%.
- Eighteen percent of SF residents are fully up to date on their COVID vaccinations and have received the updated vaccine.