



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 February 2, 2026

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 REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO CHILDHOOD VACCINES

DPH is deeply concerned by the federal government's recent action to arbitrarily revise the U.S. childhood vaccine schedule, substantially reducing the number of vaccinations routinely recommended for U.S. children. These changes put our children and communities at unnecessary risk for preventable diseases.

DPH urges the community to recognize the critical importance of childhood immunization. Every child deserves the opportunity to grow up healthy, free from the threat of dangerous—but preventable—diseases. Vaccines are one of the most effective and rigorously studied tools available to protect our children's health. Maintaining strong, evidence-based childhood vaccination schedules is essential to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, and to keeping schools open, families safe and communities resilient.

DPH will continue to align with the [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\) and the West Coast Health Alliance](#), both of which continue to endorse the evidence-based American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Recommended Child and Adolescent [Immunization Schedule](#). All child and adolescent immunizations recommended as of December 31, 2025 will remain available and covered by public and private insurers.

DPH remains committed to working with our state, regional, medical, and community partners to ensure every child has access to safe and effective vaccines. For more information about vaccine recommendations and coverage in California, please visit the [CDPH Public Health For All](#) website.

FIRST INFLUENZA DEATHS OF THE RESPIRATORY VIRUS SEASON IN SAN FRANCISCO CONFIRMED

DPH has recently received reports of two deaths caused by influenza (flu); the first recorded in San Francisco this respiratory virus season. Both individuals were adults.



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Flu activity is currently high in San Francisco and DPH strongly encourages vaccination this respiratory virus season. The flu vaccine is the best tool to reduce the risk of severe illness and death, especially for people over the age of 65, infants, people with weakened immune systems, and people with certain chronic conditions such as asthma and heart disease. Vaccines are available at health systems and local pharmacies.

In addition to getting vaccinated, DPH recommends the following steps to stay healthy this respiratory virus season:

- If you are in a crowded indoor space such as a train or a plane, wear a well-fitted, high-quality mask like a KN95.
- Wash your hands regularly and cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or your elbow.
- If you have symptoms of flu, such as a fever, cough, sore throat, or body aches, avoid contact with people by staying home. People with flu are most contagious during the first 3 days of their illness. If you are sick, especially if you are at [higher risk of severe illness](#), you should promptly contact your health care provider to be tested and get treatment. At-home flu tests are also available for purchase at local pharmacies.

For more information about the flu, COVID and RSV vaccines, please visit [sf.gov/vax](#). Respiratory virus hospitalization data in San Francisco can be found [here](#).

CASTRO-MISSION HEALTH CENTER (CMHC) FEATURED IN SF CHRONICLE MAKES HEADLINES

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) recently featured Castro-Mission Health Center (CMHC) in a story that shines a spotlight on the clinic's enduring impact.

In 1965, DPH opened its first public health center just steps from the heart of the historic Castro District and a few blocks from Mission Dolores Park. As the HIV/AIDS epidemic took hold, CMHC stepped up, becoming one of the first clinics to offer treatment for those affected in the community.

The Chronicle article includes powerful interviews with a longtime HIV survivor who shared his experiences of care and community at CMHC. HIV specialist Dr. Jacob Arellano-Anderson discussed groundbreaking advances in treatment and prevention, while Ricardo Duarte, CMHC's former long-time Nurse Manager, reflected on the early days of the AIDS epidemic and the clinic's role in saving lives.

We are proud to showcase the important work of the CMHC legacy and its continued importance in the fight against HIV/AIDS to our communities. Thank you to all current and former CMHC staff for your work uplifting the community you serve!



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FAMILY BIRTH CENTER MAKES THE MATERNITY CARE HONOR ROLL AGAIN

Congratulations to the Family Birth Center (FBC) for once again making the Cal Hospital Compare and California Health and Human Services Maternity Care Honor Roll. This year ZSFG was one of 54 hospitals that achieved "superior" status for exceeding performance targets on five key obstetrics outcome indicators! These measures represent a cross section of perinatal health metrics for birthing people undergoing a vaginal or cesarean birth and their newborns.

To access the 2025 Maternity Care Honor Roll fact sheet, visit the [Cal Hospital Compare website](#). Thank you, FBC Team, for your tireless energy and compassion in delivering exceptional maternity care that supports safer births and healthier outcomes for families.

4A SKILLED NURSING FACILITY SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES TRIENNIAL LICENSING AND RECERTIFICATION SURVEY

ZSFG successfully completed the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) triennial licensing survey and CDPH/Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) annual recertification survey at the 4A Skilled Nursing Facility. The survey was conducted over five days and involved a team of five surveyors.

Throughout the survey process, the surveyors provided highly favorable feedback regarding the performance of the ZSFG team. Surveyors observed staff consistently demonstrate best practices in skilled nursing care, noting that the expertise and approaches utilized at ZSFG could serve as a model for other skilled nursing facilities.

DPH recognizes the leadership and staff of the 4A Skilled Nursing Facility for their outstanding preparation, professionalism, and collaboration during the survey, ensuring a successful survey outcome through their commitment to safe practice and continuous quality improvement.

The Department further acknowledges the essential contributions of Food and Nutrition Services, Facilities, Environmental Services, Infection Prevention and Control, and Pharmacy teams for their direct support, timely responsiveness, and effective coordination with surveyors. Surveyors also commended the Regulatory Team and operational staff for their leadership and adherence to regulatory standards and best practices.

Congratulations to all the staff in the 4A Skilled Nursing Facility and support teams for achieving a high level of clinical quality, operational readiness, and staff engagement.



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ZSFG STAFFING ANNOUNCEMENTS AND LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

DPH congratulates the following staff on their recent appointments to leadership roles at ZSFG. These appointments strengthen organizational leadership and advance key priorities across equity, workforce engagement, clinical operations, and performance improvement.

- **Rhett Burden** has been appointed **Director of Inclusive Excellence and Staff Experience**. In this role, Rhett will lead strategies to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion while enhancing workforce engagement and well-being, building on his experience translating equity commitments into measurable and sustainable organizational practices.
- **Matthew Talmadge, FSN, FNP-BC, PHN** has been appointed **Nursing Director of the Emergency Department (ED)**. With 12 years of service at ZSFG, including 3.5 years as Lead ED Nurse Manager, Matthew brings extensive experience in operational improvement, workforce development, and patient-flow initiatives within a high-volume safety-net emergency department, along with clinical expertise as a Family Nurse Practitioner.
- **Adrian Gonzalez, MSN, FNP-BC, PHN** has been appointed **Director of Food Services**, where he will lead food service operations, including dietetics, production, and clinical nutrition support. Adrian brings over a decade of healthcare food and nutrition leadership experience from organizations including Sutter Health, HCA, and Stanford Health Care.
- **Dr. Andreas Mitchell, MD, MPP** has been appointed **Medical Director for Performance Excellence and Improvement**. In this role, Dr. Mitchell will support hospital-wide performance improvement, patient safety, and Lean transformation efforts, co-chair the Performance Improvement and Patient Safety (PIPS) Committee, and help integrate improvement initiatives with ZSFG's True North pillars. Dr. Mitchell began in a limited capacity on January 1, with a planned transition to full capacity by July 2026.

COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 01/28:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 0.7%.
- Twenty-three percent of SF residents are fully up to date on their COVID vaccinations and have received the updated vaccine.