



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 March 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.

FEDERAL FUNDING CUTS

DPH received four grant termination notices from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on February 11 for grants that provide services to support climate health, HIV, and public health infrastructure. On the same day, the state of California alongside Minnesota, Illinois, and Colorado filed a complaint and request for a temporary restraining order (TRO). On February 12, the Court issued an initial 14-day TRO which has since been extended through March 12. On February 16, over the holiday weekend, SFDPH received rescission notices for the four terminated grants retracting the terminations.

The estimated potential loss of funding is over \$8 million. If implemented, the loss of this funding will significantly harm our efforts to keep our communities healthy, reduce disparities, reduce HIV and STI transmission, and build a more resilient City. The Department continues to work closely with City Attorney's Office to monitor this evolving situation.

The impacted grants are:

- **Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) \$300k** - This funding supports citywide climate initiatives such as the Heat and Air Quality Resilience Project to prepare San Francisco to respond to extreme heat and wildfire smoke events. Funding also supports data analytics to understand local climates and associated health impacts in addition to supporting community-based organizations to adapt to climate-related hazards.
- **National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) \$500k** - This funding supports surveillance for HIV infection, including access to prevention and care services and understanding structural barriers that may impede access to services.
- **Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG) \$7 million** - This funding supports workforce development and capacity building across six priority areas: equity and anti-racism efforts; strengthening infrastructure systems; actionable data; training; strengthening community partnerships; and communications.



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- **Project ExEL (Expand and Elevate), Cycle 2: expanding HIV and STI surveillance and prevention services to ‘Get to Zero’ (SHIPS) \$600k** - This funding supports clinical services at SF City Clinic for sexual health, including but not limited to: scaling up injectable PrEP; prescribing doxy-PEP; and implementation of long-acting reversible contraception to reduce citywide HIV/STI transmission. Complementary to clinical services, the funding also supports community engagement and outreach.

The Department is working urgently to restore this critical funding and is exploring all options available. DPH will continue to prioritize core public health services to protect health, and direct clinical and patient services to maintain health in San Francisco.

DPH URGES THE PUBLIC NOT TO PICK OR EAT WILD MUSHROOMS

Since November 2025, there has been an outbreak of severe illness and deaths in California associated with people picking and eating wild poisonous mushrooms—specifically, Death Cap and Western Destroying Angel mushrooms—that they mistakenly believed were edible.

DPH urges the public to not pick or eat wild mushrooms during this period of increased risk and avoid eating wild mushrooms picked by friends or family. We also urge the public to closely monitor children and pets in areas where wild mushrooms can grow, such as parks.

These poisonous mushrooms can easily be mistaken for safe, edible mushrooms due to their similar appearance and taste, but consuming them can lead to severe poisoning. Cooking, boiling, drying, or freezing these poisonous mushrooms does not make them safe to eat.

The consequences of eating poisonous mushrooms can be severe. Between November 18, 2025, and February 9, 2026, 40 cases of mushroom poisoning were reported in California, resulting in four deaths and at least three liver transplants.

Symptoms of these mushroom poisonings can begin six to 24 hours after consumption. Common symptoms include vomiting, severe abdominal pain, and diarrhea. Symptoms can progress to liver damage and death.

If you or someone you know may have eaten a poisonous mushroom, seek medical care immediately or contact the California Poison Control Hotline at 1-800-222-1222.

To increase awareness, the California Department of Public Health has developed informational flyers, posters and other resources for public use. These resources are available in multiple languages and can be found [here](#).



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ZSFG HEROES AND HEARTS AWARDS

On February 12, the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation **Hearts in SF Gala** celebrated Zuckerberg San Francisco General's contributions to the community with the theme of the power of seeing humanity in one another. The event was attended by hundreds of civic and business leaders and raised funds that support vital programs, services, and initiatives at ZSFG. Mayor Daniel Lurie, Public Health Director Dan Tsai and ZSFG CEO Dr. Susan Ehrlich presented the Heroes & Hearts Awards to ZSFG's Kelly Brandon, MSN, RNBC, CNS from the Family Birth Center, Melissa Pitts, RN, BNS from the Emergency Department and ZSFG Heart Transplant Patient Pamela Dorsey.

Kelly Brandon is a Clinical Nurse Specialist in the Family Birth Center and the Co-Founder of the Addiction Care Team Nurse Liaison Program. Kelly helped launch this innovative initiative to bring addiction medicine specialists directly into hospital units, fostering collaboration, continuous learning, and meaningful improvements in patient care. Her work is making a powerful impact at the intersection of substance use disorders and inpatient health care.

Melissa Pitts, RN, nursing leader, and AOD in the Emergency Department was honored for her exceptional skill, steady leadership, and the deep compassion she provides for patients and teams during moments of tragedy and disaster. Melissa ensures seamless, high-quality care from the ambulance bay through recovery, making a meaningful difference for our patients at every step of their journey.

ZSFG patient **Pamela Dorsey** was honored after surviving a silent heart attack in 2020 and making significant changes in her life that ultimately made her eligible for a life-saving heart transplant. Pamela demonstrates that with love, hope, and support from the ZSFG care team, people can turn their lives around.

The Foundation also celebrated the San Francisco Free Clinic with the Community Impact Award, recognizing their 30-plus year commitment to serving San Franciscans without health insurance.

DPH is grateful to the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation, their CEO Kim Meredith, and the entire Board of Directors for galvanizing our community around such an important cause and for their support and partnership year-round.

SAFETY INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM DEMOBILIZES—THE WORK CONTINUES

Since December 2025, DPH's Safety Incident Management Team (IMT)—a dedicated group of about 100 DPH and UCSF staff—developed and implemented meaningful, lasting safety improvements across ZSFG and DPH. On February 13, after 67 days in operation, the Safety IMT demobilized. During its tenure, the team worked tirelessly to make DPH a safer place to work, visit, and receive care. ZSFG teams proudly contributed to the IMT's many accomplishments, including:



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- **Clearer Safety Protocols:** Established new guidelines on who to call during an emergency or to report a safety concern, including the creation of the Threat Management Team to respond to and investigate non-emergency safety issues.
- **Expanded Security Leadership:** Added four experienced security managers focused on rapid assessment, vendor management, and consistent safety protocol implementation.
- **Accelerated Physical Improvements:** Upgraded lighting across the ZSFG campus, including stadium lighting, introduced weapons detection at Buildings 80/90, and mapped and tested all clinic-based duress devices.

As the IMT's work transitions, important safety initiatives will now be coordinated by a project management team dedicated to moving improvements forward and ZSFG will remain an active partner in ensuring safety initiatives are coordinated with DPH and continue.

DPH EXPANDING BEHAVIORAL AND RESIDENTIAL CAPACITY VIA MULTI-SITE STRATEGY

DPH continues to advance a coordinated, multi-site strategy to expand behavioral health and residential care capacity across San Francisco. This work is anchored by major improvements to the Behavioral Health Center (BHC) at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and the development of two Hayes Valley facilities at 624 and 601 Laguna Street. Together, these projects will bring online approximately 90 new beds, significantly strengthening the City's ability to serve individuals with serious behavioral health needs.

At ZSFG, the Department is moving forward to convert the second floor of the BHC to a locked Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC), adding roughly 50 new beds. The first floor of the BHC will continue to operate as an Adult Residential Facility (ARF). Renovations will be phased floor-by-floor beginning in early 2027, with overall project completion expected within 18–24 months and opening anticipated in 2028. A \$21 million grant agreement was approved by the Board of Supervisors in January 2026, ensuring this critical project is fully authorized and underway.

Parallel progress is occurring at 624 Laguna Street, which will operate as a Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (RCFE), offering enhanced medical care. In December 2025, the Civil Service Commission approved the facility to be operated by City staff, following successful collaboration with SEIU 1021. The site will function as a satellite campus of ZSFG, enabling smooth transitions for current BHC clients. Operational planning in 2026 includes staffing, obtaining state licensing, developing clinical protocols, and coordinated transfer processes.

At 601 Laguna Street, the Department is preparing to open a new Adult Residential Facility operated by a community-based organization. This site will add approximately 40 new ARF beds, with construction improvements scheduled to begin in spring 2026. The City is currently in escrow to



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purchase the property and is collaborating with the existing owner on needed upgrades before taking possession. Operator selection is also planned for spring 2026, aligning with the City's timeline to open the facility by early 2027.

Together, the BHC renovation and the Laguna Street developments represent a major expansion of the City's behavioral health continuum. By adding new MHRC and ARF capacity, these projects will help ensure that more San Franciscans, particularly those living on the street, can access stable, clinically appropriate, long-term care. The Department remains committed to transparent progress updates as each project moves through construction, licensing, and operational readiness over the next two years.

CAVITYFREE SF LAUNCHES CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH STRATEGIC PLAN

On Thursday, February 19, DPH Deputy Director Dr. Naveena Bobba joined partners to launch the CavityFree_SF Children's Oral Health Strategic Plan for 2026–2030. The event, held during National Children's Oral Health Month, brought together key stakeholders, including District 10 Supervisor Shamann Walton, Eufern Pan, Assistant Chief of Health and Human Services for the Mayor's Office, and representatives from community-based organizations committed to ensuring every San Francisco child enjoys optimal oral health.

This collaborative, citywide plan aims to eliminate oral health disparities and promote cavity-free, healthy lives for children, especially those from low-income, diverse, and high-risk populations. Key strategies include expanding access to care, integrating oral health into medical settings, and increasing preventive services such as fluoride varnish. The plan sets ambitious goals: reducing the percentage of kindergarteners with tooth decay, lowering rates of untreated cavities, and closing racial and ethnic gaps in dental health outcomes.

The launch also celebrated 10 years of CavityFree_SF's collective impact initiative, which has significantly improved oral health equity for San Francisco's children. Thanks to community-based oral health promotion, expanded fluoride varnish programs and school-based dental services, kindergarten cavity rates have dropped by 17%—a major milestone in the fight against childhood tooth decay.

ZSFG KEEPS CITY SAFE - GAME DAY AND EVERY DAY

Thank you to ZSFG's Emergency Department, Urgent Care Clinic, and all care and support teams throughout the hospital for a coordinated, week-long effort leading up to and through Super Bowl weekend in February. Teamwork helped reduce ZSFG's ED boarding and diversion while maintaining patient safety—all while keeping the hospital fully operational for the many other urgent and critical needs of our community. Special thanks to the physicians on site at the Super Bowl, supporting NFL doctors and ensuring seamless medical coverage during the event. This work



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reflects what it means to be the City's only hospital and Level 1 Trauma Center: always prepared, always responsive, and always there when it matters most.

EXPANSION OF THE ZSFG ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY TEAM

Under the leadership of Deputy Chief Operating Officer Chauncey Jackson, ZSFG expanded its Environmental Health and Safety Team to strengthen operational efficiency, enhance partnerships, and foster collaboration across safety programs within DPH.

As part of this initiative, the HR Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) team is now integrated with the ZSFG Environmental Health and Safety Team. The expanded team now provides comprehensive support to ZSFG, Ambulatory Care, the Population Health Division, Behavioral Health Services, and DPH administrative units. Services include regulatory compliance site visits, safety training programs, workplace violence prevention, ergonomics, respirator fit testing, and Environment of Care inspections.

ZSFG DIABETES TEAM HONORED BY THE AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION

The ZSFG Diabetes Education Program has been recertified by the American Diabetes Association through January 12, 2030, recognizing continued excellence in Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support (DSMES). This milestone is a proud moment for the team and reflects their long-standing commitment to high-quality, patient-centered diabetes care and education—supporting hundreds of patients each month through individualized care, group education, and coordinated services.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS & WASTE PROGRAM—SINGLE-WALLED UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK REMOVAL

The Environmental Health Branch's Hazardous Materials and Waste Program regulates nearly all aspects of hazardous materials storage and disposal in San Francisco, including the storage of hazardous materials in underground storage tanks (USTs). There are currently 215 UST sites in the city. Common locations include gasoline stations and facilities with backup generators for emergency power in businesses or high-rise buildings.

California Senate Bill (SB) 445 requires all single-walled USTs and non-exempt single-walled piping to be permanently closed by **December 31, 2025**. There are no exemptions or extensions to this mandate. Owners and operators must comply by either removing the UST or, if approved by the Certified Unified Program Agency (UPA) under the SF Environmental Health Branch, closing the tank in place. This requirement was established to reduce the risk of leaks from aging tanks, which can contaminate soil and groundwater, posing significant environmental and public health hazards.

After the deadline, single-walled UST systems cannot be operated and may be red-tagged by the



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Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) or the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), preventing fuel deliveries and dispensing.

DPH notified all affected sites in August 2023 and 2024 and sent courtesy reminders in October 2025 to UCSF, City-owned sites, and others. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of inspectors and program staff, who provided guidance and oversight throughout the process, 97% of sites removed or permanently closed their single-walled USTs before the deadline. As of January 23, 2026, only six sites remain with a total of 15 single-walled USTs.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

This Black History Month, as we reflect on 100 years of Black history commemorations, DPH honors a legacy of care rooted in Black community leadership, resilience, and advocacy.

We recognize that health disparities and inequities continue to impact Black communities. DPH is committed to addressing these disparities by advancing health equity through community engagement, upstream public health interventions, and efforts that address the social drivers of health

This work is ongoing. Advancing health equity and working toward getting to zero on health disparities remains central to our public health priorities—during Black History Month and throughout the year.

The DPH Office of Health Equity was proud to be a contributing partner for Generations 2026: Black LGBTQIA+ History Experiences—Rooted in Legacy, Rising in Power, presented by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation on February 27.

Additionally, Laguna Honda Hospital honored Black History Month with an educational and inspiring series of events that brought staff and residents together in celebration of culture, history, and unity. The Black History Month Planning Committee curated a dynamic calendar, kicking off with a unity march and a powerful rendition of the Black National Anthem along the main esplanade of Laguna Honda. Festivities continued with a lively Black History trivia challenge, and an inspiring poetry slam. Residents and staff also enjoyed a performance by the Georgia Blues Band and spirited karaoke session, adding music and joy to the month-long celebration.

Staff and residents were also encouraged to wear gold, red, green, or black on separate themed days to reflect the colors of the African Diaspora. The Food and Nutrition team complemented the experience with hearty, culturally inspired meals in the café, while the daily newsletter spotlighted significant moments and contributions in Black history.



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COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 02/25:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 0.9%.
- Twenty-four percent of SF residents are fully up to date on their COVID vaccinations and have received the updated vaccine.