



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 April 6, 2021

A current overview of issues affecting the state of public health in San Francisco
<https://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/insideDept/dirRpts/default.asp>

Federal Update:

Public Charge changes reversed and no longer in effect

On March 9, 2021, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officially announced the reversal of the Trump-era public charge rule changes. Public charge policies govern how use of public benefits impact individuals' immigration status. The rule change was initially proposed in 2019 by the Trump Administration, and was immediately challenged in the courts by numerous groups across the country, including San Francisco. While the change had only directly impacted a relatively small number individuals, the rule created confusion and fear across immigrant communities. This reversal is an important victory for our community, and the health department is firmly committed to keeping San Francisco a place where health care is available to all, regardless of immigration status.

Local Update:

San Francisco Department of Public Health Office of Health Equity co-hosts Anti-Asian Violence Forum

Across the United States and in the Bay Area, people have come together to address the recent rise in anti-Asian violence and rhetoric. Staff from the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) also sought a more robust way to stand against Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) hate and turned to the DPH Office of Health Equity (OHE).

On March 24th, an Anti-Asian Violence Forum was co-sponsored by OHE and the COVID Command Center's (C3) Equity and Neighborhoods sections, in collaboration with the C3 Joint Information Center.

The response was enthusiastic. Nearly 500 staff registered for the Anti-Asian Violence Forum, and nearly 300 participants attended. Dr. Ritchie Rubio from Behavioral Health Services led a session on self-care and recognizing the ongoing mental health needs of the AAPI community in light of historical discrimination that persists and is magnified today. The forum then moved to discussions facilitated by DPH staff volunteers and C3 staff. Many AAPI staff shared their individual stories and their coworkers shared their concern and care for one another.



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Moreover, the executive leadership throughout the SFDPH, including but not limited to Zuckerberg San Francisco General and Laguna Honda Hospital, addressed the violence and racism against the AAPI community, distributed messages of support and solidarity, and underscored the fact that discrimination will not be tolerated on our campuses, with their staff. DPH leaders also continue to meet with community-based organizations as part of their standing monthly meetings and provide time to recognize the need for healing and availability of resources.

Marlo Simmons receives Public Health Hero award

The San Francisco Department of Public Health presents Marlo Simmons with a Public Health Hero award in recognition for her devoted service and commitment to the people of San Francisco and the Department of Public Health.

Since February 2020, Marlo, as Acting Director of Behavioral Health Services (BHS), has overseen the integration of Mental Health SF into the ongoing quality improvement of BHS. Marlo led with grace, wisdom, and perseverance, with a strategic vision which reflects the direction articulated by key stakeholders, the BHS executive team and staff while always prioritizing the health needs of our clients. As Dr. Hillary Kunins assumes her new role as Director of Behavioral Health Services and Mental Health SF, Marlo returns to her duties as Deputy Director.

People age 50 and older are now eligible to receive the COVID vaccine in San Francisco

Today, there are over 35,300 San Francisco residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19. And, sadly, a total of 482 San Franciscans have died. DPH sends condolences to their loved ones.

On April 1, Mayor London N. Breed and DPH, announced that in accordance with state and federal guidance, all people age 50 and over are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. This significant expansion in vaccine eligibility comes as the City approaches an important milestone in its unprecedented vaccination effort: nearly half of people in San Francisco age 16 and over have now received at least one dose of the vaccine. The vaccine is not yet approved by the FDA for children under 16.

In addition to providing the vaccine to nearly half of the adult population, San Francisco has made significant progress in providing the vaccine to its older population. 84% percent of San Franciscans 65 and older have received at least one dose of the vaccine and 64% have been fully vaccinated. These high vaccination rates in the 65 and older population is especially important because older individuals are most at risk of hospitalization and death from COVID-19.

Despite this significant progress, insufficient vaccine supply remains the single biggest factor limiting the City's vaccination effort. Those newly eligible people age 50 and over should visit sf.gov/getvaccinated to learn about options for receiving the vaccine and to find links to book appointments at different vaccination sites. Because supply remains extremely limited while eligibility is expanding, it may take a number of weeks to find an available appointment. Eligible



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Individuals should continue to be patient, should keep checking the website, and should accept the first vaccine that is offered. If San Francisco receives sufficient supply to meet the City's distribution capacity, over 80% of adults could be vaccinated with first doses by mid-May.

On March 15th, in accordance with State guidelines, the City expanded eligibility to people with disabilities and severe underlying conditions, people living in congregate settings like jails and shelters, and people experiencing homelessness. Also eligible are people 65 and older, people who work in the healthcare, food and agriculture, education and childcare, and emergency services sectors. The state government has announced that on April 15, all Californians over the age of 16 will be eligible to receive the vaccine.

The goal of the City's vaccination strategy is to make receiving the vaccine as convenient and comfortable for as many people as possible, particularly in neighborhoods disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The City has developed a robust distribution infrastructure that includes high-volume vaccination sites, neighborhood sites, community clinics, pharmacy partnerships, and mobile vaccination teams.

Recently the City's vaccination infrastructure has expanded to include new sites and new methods for distributing the vaccine. In partnership with communities that have been most impacted by COVID-19, the City is on track to open two additional neighborhood vaccine sites in the next two weeks. In addition to new sites, mobile vaccination teams have scaled up across the City to bring the vaccine directly to communities that cannot easily access high volume vaccination sites. This includes a visit to Treasure Island, which will see regular appearances from mobile vaccination teams in the coming weeks. Mobile vaccination teams are also active in senior housing sites, shelter in place hotels, and senior centers around the City.

San Francisco's commitment to an equitable vaccination strategy has focused on reaching communities that have been hard-hit by the pandemic, including the Latino community and neighborhoods in the Southeast of the city. A higher proportion of the DPH-administered vaccinations have gone to people of color than the total citywide vaccinations. For example, the Latino population represents 14% of the City's overall population and has received more than 26% of DPH's vaccinations, compared with 12% citywide. [The vaccine dashboard](#) also shows that the top three neighborhoods receiving the largest amount of DPH-controlled vaccines are the Bayview, Mission and Excelsior.

In order to assist individuals with accessing appointments, the City has set up a call center to help people, especially those who are 65 and older, those with disabilities and those who are unable to easily access the internet or schedule an appointment through their provider. Individuals may call to learn about vaccine options and receive assistance in booking an appointment to some locations. The number is (628) 652-2700.

Muni and Paratransit are free for anyone traveling to and from COVID-19 vaccine appointments. The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency is also providing additional access to taxi



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service for those using the Essential Trip Card. Information can be found at sfmta.com/COVID and sfmta.com/paratransit.

The distribution of a national vaccine during a pandemic is an unprecedented event, and DPH is partnering with healthcare providers to have as many people vaccinated as fast as possible, while following the federal and state guidelines for prioritization. In the meantime, it is critical that all San Franciscans continue to follow all public health recommendations to wear a mask when not in your home, cough into your elbow, wash your hands, keep six feet from others whenever you must be in public places, and help your local health department collect information to inform people of possible infection. These steps will help protect you and those around you while COVID-19 is circulating, and, along with the vaccine, will be essential to ending the pandemic.

Anyone who works or lives in San Francisco can sign up for a notification when they are eligible for vaccination at SF.gov/vaccinenotify. The City will continue to provide regular updates to the public about the vaccine in San Francisco at SF.gov/covidvaccine.

San Francisco's mobile vaccination unit to vaccinate up to 1,000 seniors in Chinatown senior living facilities

On March 26, Mayor London N. Breed, DPH and C3 announced the City will vaccinate up to 1,000 seniors and eligible community members at Chinatown's largest affordable family housing facility, Ping Yuen, and other housing facilities in the next two weeks. The two-day events at Ping Yuen on Friday, April 2 and Friday, April 9, is aimed to increase the vaccination rate for seniors in Chinatown and is part of the City's broader mobile vaccination efforts to reach communities that have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

Since its launch in mid-February, the City's mobile vaccination program has administered approximately 2,000-3,000 vaccines to residents in the Bayview, Tenderloin, Excelsior, Mission, Chinatown, and Western Addition. DPH and C3 have more than 30 mobile vaccination events planned in the next three weeks and are working closely with community partners to provide referrals for appointments to priority populations.

Given that 65% of seniors in Chinatown have been vaccinated, DPH and C3 are deploying mobile vaccine resources to the Ping Yuen senior living facility and other housing facilities to help address that disparity and increase vaccination rates in Chinatown.

Mobile Vaccination Efforts

On March 25, the City partnered with GLIDE to administer 100 vaccines as part of a pilot, which will eventually scale up to a bi-weekly event with the goal of administering 1,000 vaccines per week. The event at GLIDE is a partnership with the City, University of California, San Francisco's Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative, Life Sciences Cares-Bay Area, and San Francisco Community Health Center. The San Francisco Community Health Center is a beneficiary of DPH



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and San Francisco Public Health Foundation's \$5.28 million grant program to provide culturally responsive services to neighborhoods and populations most impacted by COVID-19 through outreach, linkage to testing and vaccine, contact investigation, and isolation and quarantine services.

Additionally, the City is hosting a series of mobile vaccination events on Treasure Island for eligible Treasure Island residents on March 27, April 3 and April 10 at Ship Shape Community Center (850 Avenue I) from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. The site is primarily by appointment with very limited drop-in capacity. The mobile site is being run by DPH and C3 in partnership with the Fire Department, the Treasure Island Development Authority, and One Treasure Island, with outreach support from the Latino Taskforce.

To serve people with disabilities, the City is partnering with the Mayor's Office on Disability and other community partners on several mobile vaccination events. On March 27 and 28, the University of the Pacific Dental School vaccinated 300 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As of Friday, April 2, and recurring for four to six weeks, Lighthouse for the Blind is administering 200 doses a day to people with disabilities.

San Francisco reopens and expands businesses and activities as it moves into the state's orange tier

On March 23, Mayor London N. Breed and Director of Health Dr. Grant Colfax announced that San Francisco will resume most businesses and activities that are allowed by the State in the orange tier for counties with moderate transmission levels, following the City's assignment to that tier. With some exceptions, San Francisco's reopening align with what is permitted by the State.

As of March 23, San Francisco has met the State's criteria to advance to the less restrictive orange tier on the Blueprint for a Safer Economy, based on its COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and other health equity metrics. With this move, San Francisco will open non-essential offices up to 25% capacity, bars and breweries for outdoor service, and some indoor family recreation up to 25% capacity. San Francisco has also established a timeline to resume outdoor arts, theater, and music performances and festivals for audiences of up to 50 people beginning April 1 and is working to create guidelines for outdoor spectator sports and large outdoor entertainment venues as well. In addition to the activities being reopened, a significant number of activities reopened in previous tiers will expand capacity, including all retail, personal services and equipment rental, outdoor and indoor dining, outdoor and indoor fitness, indoor religious activities, indoor movie theaters, museums, zoos and aquariums, and open air bus and boat tours. Most indoor businesses will be allowed at up to 50%, with exceptions for non-essential offices, indoor family entertainment, gyms and fitness centers, and indoor recreational facilities.

In addition, several indoor sports and recreation activities may open and outdoor recreational activities may expand to increase capacity and number of attendees. Outdoor pools may open at up to 50% capacity and certain outdoor tournaments can take place in golf, tennis, and pickleball so



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long as social distancing requirements can be maintained and spectators do not attend. Indoor pools may open at up to 25% capacity and indoor sports and recreation for both youth and adults may resume at 25% capacity for many sports activities, including some moderate and high impact sports, such as basketball and martial arts, with specific safety protocols in place. Outdoor childcare programs and all out of school time programs for youth other than sports programs may increase to up to 27 individuals including personnel, and San Francisco intends to resume overnight camps as of June 1.

With the move into the orange tier, San Francisco is expanding the number of people able to participate in outdoor gatherings to 25. Following CDC guidelines, the City has also announced guidelines to resume indoor small gatherings in residences for up to 12 people of up to three households. Outdoor activities remain safer than indoor activities and groups are encouraged to continue gathering outdoors whenever possible, particularly if they include unvaccinated individuals.

San Francisco's new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continue to decline. At this time, San Francisco is averaging 31 new cases a day, which is comparable to where the City was in mid-November before the most recent surge. Although San Francisco's new cases and hospitalization have been trending in a positive direction, the growing prevalence of the U.K. (B.1.1.7), West Coast (B.1.427 and B.1.428) and the South African (B.1.351) variants in the Bay Area as well as the Brazilian variant (P.1), which was recently detected in California, represent a potential increased risk of contagiousness and greater community spread.

Continued adherence to public health mitigation measures such as wearing masks, washing hands and physical distancing will limit the impact of variants, particularly as more indoor activities continue to open and expand. As public health officials continue to monitor San Francisco's health indicators, the City may choose to implement a phased or lagged approach to reopening subsequent tiers in order to ensure sufficient analysis about how health indicators have responded to the reopening of activities, manage risk, and protect public health.

San Francisco continues to focus on harm reduction approaches to managing public health. Health officials continue to emphasize the need for masking and social distancing by all, including those who have been vaccinated when outside their homes, prioritizing the reopening of outdoor activities, and encouraging businesses to have outdoor options wherever possible. People at risk for severe illness with COVID-19, such as unvaccinated older adults and individuals with health risks, and members of their household are urged to continue taking strong precautions by choosing lower-risk options whenever possible.

With this in mind, the San Francisco Department of Public Health issued final health and safety guidelines to reopen activities allowed under the orange tier of the State's Blueprint for a Safer



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Economy, with some additional local restrictions, effective as of 8:00am Wednesday, March 24, 2021. Under the new Health Order, the following activities will be opened or expanded.

Activities to Resume Wednesday, March 24, 2021

The following activities may be reopened:

- Offices
 - Indoor non-essential offices of 20 or more employees may reopen at up to 25% capacity, including meeting and conference rooms at 25% (though use of conference rooms should be minimized).
 - Indoor offices of fewer than 20 employees must reduce their capacity to whatever allows for required 6 feet of physical distancing between employees at all times.
 - Indoor family entertainment
 - Indoor bowling alleys, mini golf, pool halls, and other family entertainment where individuals may readily maintain at least 6 feet of distance may open up to 25% capacity with groups consisting of members of one household.
 - Concessions are allowed following indoor dining rules in a separate room or with 12 feet of space from other activities.
- Indoor recreation
 - Indoor recreational facilities may open to 25% capacity up to 100 people.
 - Up to 12 participants from up to 3 households may participate in low-contact indoor recreation (and from up to 4 households in the case of indoor tennis and pickleball).
 - Indoor organized sports for youth and adults may resume with stable groups of up to 16 participants, with no household limitation. For moderate- or high-contact sport involving middle school, high school or adult participants, regular testing and a COVID-19 prevention plan must be in place. Elementary age children may not participate in moderate or high contact sports. Spectators are not allowed in any context except the necessary supervision of children in youth sports. Adults may only participate in up to two organized activities at a time, and only one activity if it is a moderate- or high-contact sport. Youth may only participate in one organized indoor activity at a time.
 - Competitions may only occur in county or with teams from adjacent counties (i.e., Marin, San Mateo, and Alameda) in an equal or less restrictive tier. Consistent with State guidelines, travel for out of state tournaments may not take place.
 - Indoor ice hockey, wrestling, and water polo remain prohibited.
- Indoor gatherings
 - Up to 12 people from 3 households may gather in a private residence, with face coverings and with ventilation measures and distancing urged. Such gatherings are discouraged unless they are gatherings with vaccinated individuals consistent with CDC guidelines. If possible gatherings should take place outdoors.
- Outdoor bars, breweries, wineries and distilleries



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- Bars, breweries, wineries and distilleries may open for outdoor, seated table service of up to 6 people at a table without the provision of a meal. Guests may not mingle between tables. Indoor bars, breweries and wineries without meal service remain closed.

The following activities may expand their operating capacity:

- Dining
 - Indoor dining at restaurants, bars serving meals, cafes and coffee shops, hotels, museums, and food courts in shopping malls may expand to 50% capacity up to 200 patrons. Table size may expand to up to 6 guests from up to 3 households. Service must end by 11:00 pm.
 - Outdoor dining may remove restrictions of number of households seated at a table and may allow group reservations of up to two tables outdoors (12 people maximum). Tables remain limited to 6 guests. Tables may be seated outdoors for drink service only.
- Gyms and Fitness
 - Indoor gyms, fitness centers and climbing walls may expand to 25% capacity up to 100 patrons, including youth patrons under the age of 18.
 - Group fitness classes including cardio may resume up to lesser of 25% capacity or 100 people.
 - Indoor locker rooms and showers may open with the implementation of a DPH approved ventilation measure. Indoor sauna, steam rooms and hot tubs remain closed.
 - The 25-person limitation to outdoor fitness classes is lifted as long as physical distancing between participants can be maintained.
- Retail
 - Stand-alone retail, shopping centers, low-contact retail services, equipment rental, financial institutions, laundromats, etc. may expand indoor customer capacity to 50%.
 - Personnel may handle customer-supplied items such as reusable bags, jars, mugs, and other containers.
- Personal services
 - Indoor personal services may expand to 50% customer capacity.
- Museums, zoos, and aquariums
 - Indoor museums, zoos and aquariums may expand to 50% customer capacity with an approved safety plan. Coat rooms and interactive exhibits may resume with sanitation protocols in place. Auditoriums may reopen for movies following indoor movie theater guidelines.
 - Outdoor zoos may expand to full capacity outdoors, with physical distancing in place under an approved safety plan.
- Indoor worship and funerals



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- Indoor worship and funerals may expand to 50% capacity and may resume singing, chanting and playing wind and brass instruments following applicable health rules including face coverings and maintaining 12 feet of distancing between households.
- Indoor political demonstrations
 - Indoor political demonstrations, such as campaign rallies, may expand to 50% of maximum capacity and may resume singing, chanting and playing wind and brass instruments following applicable health rules including face coverings and maintaining 12 feet of distancing between households.
- Live Entertainment
 - Indoor and outdoor live entertainment in a dining or other permitted venue context may include singing and playing wind and brass instruments following applicable health rules including face coverings and maintaining 12 feet of distancing between households.
 - Outdoor live entertainment in a drive-in context may increase beyond 6 entertainers to whatever is possible with physical distancing in place and may include singing and playing wind and brass instruments following applicable health rules including face coverings and maintaining 12 feet of distancing between households.
- Indoor movie theaters
 - movie theaters may expand to 50% capacity up to 200 people.
 - Seated food or beverage concessions may resume for groups of audience members of up to 6 people from up to 3 households so long as there is 6 feet of distance between them and other audience members and a DPH approved ventilation measure is in place.
 - there are multiple auditoriums, each auditorium is limited to the lesser of 50% or 200 people provided the theater complex does not exceed 50% capacity.
- Film Production
 - Outdoor film production may expand to 50 people.
- Higher education and adult education
 - Indoor classes, including lecture classes, and on-campus libraries may resume at 50% capacity up to 200 students.
 - Core essential class may continue without a maximum capacity limit as long as physical distancing can be maintained.
- Outdoor tour operators
 - Open-air boat and bus tours may expand to 25 patrons, or physically distanced groups of up to 25 if more than 25 patrons total.
- Pools
 - Indoor swimming pools may open for general use up to 25% capacity. Indoor water fitness classes must remain closed.
 - Outdoor pools may open for general use up to 50% capacity. Outdoor gentle water aerobics classes may resume.
- Outdoor family entertainment



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- Outdoor family entertainment such as roller and ice skating rinks may expand to full capacity outdoors with physical distancing in place.
 - Standalone amusement park rides may allow members of three households to inhabit enclosed spaces such as cars or cabins, with ventilation measures encouraged.
- Outdoor youth programs and out of school time (OST) programs
 - Childcare and pre-K programs may expand from 16 participants to stable groups of whatever number is allowed by their State licensing requirements.
 - Youth OST programs may expand to 27 (including youth and adults) for all programs other than sports.
 - Youth may participate in two OST programs at a time. If a youth is participating in a moderate or high contact sport, they may not participate in any other sport or OST program.
- Outdoor recreation
 - Participation in all types of outdoor recreation may increase to 25 participants people from three households (and from four households in the case of golf, tennis and pickleball).
 - Outdoor organized sports for youth and adults may continue to operate with stable groups of 25 participants, with no household limitation. Participants may only participate in two organized activities at a time.
 - Certain kinds of outdoor tournaments may resume without spectators for golf, tennis and pickleball so long as physical distancing can be maintained.
 - Caddies may operate as long as they maintain 6 feet of physical distancing as much as possible.
 - Competitions may only occur in county or with teams from adjacent counties (i.e., Marin, San Mateo, and Alameda) in an equal or less restrictive tier. Consistent with State guidelines, travel for out of state tournaments may not take place.
- Outdoor gatherings
 - Small outdoor gatherings may increase to up to 25 people from three households.
 - Outdoor gatherings that involve food and drink may continue with 6 people from three households.

Activities that will resume at a later date:

- Outdoor arts, music, and theater performances and festivals
 - Starting April 1, organized outdoor arts and performance events may take place with audiences of up to 50 people with a Health and Safety Plan submitted at least 5 days before the event.
 - Assigned seats are not required but social distancing between audience members must be maintained.
 - Seated concessions are allowed following outdoor dining or bar health guidelines.
- Outdoor spectator sports and large outdoor entertainment facilities



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- Starting April 1, outdoor spectator sports and live entertainment venues with assigned seating may reopen with capacity restrictions and other operating guidelines with an approved Health and Safety plan.
- Overnight Youth Camps
 - Starting June 1, overnight youth camps may resume following State guidance.

San Francisco COVID Command Center to distribute 20,000 masks designed by local artists as part of “Mask On, Stay Strong” campaign

San Francisco’s COVID Command Center (C3), in partnership with local artists and community non-profit organizations, has produced 20,000 custom-designed masks for distribution in communities most impacted by the pandemic. The initiative is part of San Francisco’s recently launched “Mask On, Stay Strong” public education campaign to promote mask-wearing as an essential practice in combatting the spread of COVID-19 and safely reopening San Francisco for business.

San Francisco’s Health Officer issued updates to the City’s current [Face Covering Public Health Order](#) to make clear that best practice is to use face coverings that have a good fit, such as two or three ply tightly woven cloth masks, surgical or procedural masks, or double masks. Looser fitting face coverings, such as bandanas, scarves, ski-masks, balaclavas, and single-layer neck gaiters, are less effective at preventing COVID-19 transmission and do not qualify as face coverings on public transit per CDC guidance.

The Order maintains the requirement that everyone must wear a face covering when outside of their residence and within six feet of an individual outside of their own household. Face coverings are still required to be worn in the workplace, in shared or common areas of buildings, and when preparing food or other items for sale.

The City’s artist-designed mask project is being funded and managed by C3. The eight Bay Area artists participating in the project were selected from community stakeholder nominations in late 2020. The artists were asked to create mask designs that both reflect their art practice as well as the spirit of their own cultural community. The results are masks that are vibrant wearable works of art. The 20,000 artist-designed masks are being distributed in partnership with community non-profit organizations, Cultural District offices, senior sites, testing and vaccination sites, food distribution hubs, and shelters throughout San Francisco. Participating artists include Kimberley Acebo Arteché, Cheryl Derricotte, Nancy Hom, Crystal Liu, Lydia Ortiz, Ron Moultrie Saunders, Kim Shuck, and Betty Trujillo. Photographs of the masks are available [here](#) or upon request.

Health Department Mental Health Services Act approved for new innovation project that aims to improve overall wellness for Black/African American Communities



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DPH is pleased to announce that BHS Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) was approved for a new Innovations project to provide culturally congruent and innovative practices for Black/African American (B/AA) communities. A robust Innovations proposal was presented to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission on March 25, 2021. The State Commission approved the program proposal in the total amount of \$5,400,000 for five years.

Since hosting 19 community engagement meetings, MHSA was able to better understand the needs of the community and incorporated their feedback to the Innovation project. As a result, MHSA created this unique project that will utilize innovative and culturally congruent interventions that have not previously been offered to San Francisco's B/AA communities. This project will include four (4) primary learning goals.

1. Implement and evaluate new outreach and engagement practices for B/AA clients including those who are currently underserved by the County mental health plan.
2. Implement and evaluate culturally adaptive interventions and practices that increase consumer satisfaction, efficacy and retention.
3. Implement and evaluate the efficacy of using peers with lived experience who represent the B/AA communities and have specialized expertise working with this population.
4. Develop a wellness-oriented manualized curriculum that emphasizes elements of the Sankofa framework.

Moving forward, MHSA will continue to meet with San Francisco community members, MHSA peers, MHSA stakeholders and BHS leadership, whose invaluable input and support is critical to the implementation of this project.

San Francisco Department of Public Health commemorates World Tuberculosis Day 2021

On March 24th, to raise awareness and honor of World Tuberculosis (TB) Day, the DPH Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program staff presented an interactive webinar to over 50 employees. The webinar was delivered by Clinic Operations Manager, Sheila Davis-Jackson, and hosted by TB Controller, Dr. Susannah Graves, with an introduction by Acting Health Officer, Dr. Susan Philip. Together, they provided an overview of TB prevention through an equity lens alongside the personal story of a local [TB survivor](#).

In partnership with the California TB Controller's Association (CTCA) and TB Free California, San Francisco TB Program staff also recorded four outreach videos, now posted on CTCA's TikTok account to spread awareness to a broader audience. The videos display messages with common TB facts with backdrops of San Francisco landmarks and neighborhoods.

Additionally, Dr. Janice Louie, Medical Director of the TB Clinic, presented at the UCSF Curry International Tuberculosis Center World TB Day Webinar on trends in TB reporting since the shelter-in-place order to a virtual audience of 600. She discussed San Francisco data showing an initial decrease in referrals for TB evaluation followed by an increase in severe presentations of TB upon diagnosis that picked up in the latter half of 2020. In spite of an overall decline in cases since a



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relative peak in the 1990s, TB incidence has remained elevated in San Francisco at more than three times the national incidence ranging from 11-14/100,000 in the last decade, the second-highest incidence of any California county. This preventable airborne infectious disease disproportionately impacts AAPI, B/AA, and Latinx San Franciscans whose TB incidence is 13, 7, and 6-fold higher respectively than that of white residents.

DPH receives three grants as part of national initiative to end the HIV epidemic

DPH has been awarded three grants as part of the [Ending the HIV Epidemic \(ETE\) Initiative](#) federal funding for both HIV prevention and care. ETE aims to reduce the number of new HIV infections in the United States by at least 90 percent by 2030.

With the ETE funding, DPH will augment targeted community-based services, create new innovative services, use a harm reduction framework, and eliminate eligibility silos for prevention and care services to turn the curve on HIV/HCV/STIs. Moreover, the three awarded grants will support DPH's continuous efforts to address ongoing disparities and emphasizes community engagement by enabling the expansion of services to people living with HIV and/or vulnerable to HIV, HCV, and STIs, with a focus on B/AA and Latinx communities; trans women; people experiencing homelessness; people who use drugs; and people who have experienced incarceration. By investing in our city's already-existing, rich network of resources and services, DPH can also simultaneously focus on advancing racial and health equity; reducing stigma and discrimination; and honoring lived experiences and human dignity.

HIV/HCV/STI Epidemics (SF ETE) Plan: <https://www.sfdph.org/dph/files/CHEP/SF-ETE-Plan.pdf>.

DPH in the News

SF Examiner, Apr 5 2021, SF expands civilian response to mental health 911 calls

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/sf-expands-civilian-response-to-mental-health-911-calls/>

Patch, Apr 3 2021, San Francisco: People age fifty and older are now eligible to receive the COVID vaccine in San Francisco

<https://patch.com/california/san-francisco/san-francisco-people-age-fifty-older-are-now-eligible-receive-covid-vaccine>

ABC7, Apr 2 2021, Here's how SF is ensuring vaccines reach underserved communities

<https://abc7news.com/vaccine-equity-underserved-communities-myturn-ca-gov-san-francisco-chinatown/10476141/>

SF Chronicle, Apr 2 2021, Why San Francisco opened COVID vaccines to some residents as young as 16 - three weeks ahead of the state

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/health/article/Why-San-Francisco-opened-COVID-vaccines-to-some->



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[16073281.php](#)

LA Times, Apr 1 2021, Bay Area COVID-19 variants could outpace vaccine distribution, health director warns

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-04-01/bay-area-health-director-warns-variants-new-spike-in-infections>

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