



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 April 6, 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.

OVERDOSE DATA AND EXPANDED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES UPDATE

On March 18, Director Daniel Tsai hosted a media availability to give an update on fatal overdoses in San Francisco and highlight growing behavioral health care services in DPH Primary Care. Citing preliminary data from the San Francisco Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Director Tsai announced that there were 43 fatal overdoses in San Francisco in February 2026, 39% fewer than the number recorded in the same month in 2025. Year to date, counting January through February 2026, there have been 97 fatal overdoses, 27% fewer than what occurred over the same period last year.

DPH guest speaker Dr. Elizabeth Abbs, an addiction specialist who practices at the Tom Waddell Urban Health Clinic, also shared how DPH has made it easier for people to access addiction and mental health care in primary care clinics. Drop-in behavioral health care is now available at three DPH clinics: Tom Waddell Urban Health Clinic, Southeast Family Health Center, and Potrero Hill Family Health Center. DPH Primary Care has also launched a primary care addiction referral system that offers virtual and in-person support across the primary care network and is actively establishing addiction champions at all 14 DPH primary care clinics. This ensures that every primary care patient in our system has access to specialty addiction medicine, regardless of which clinic or neighborhood they call home.

MAYOR LURIE ANNOUNCES HIGH INJURY NETWORK MAP

On Thursday 3/26, [Mayor Lurie announced](#) the new High Injury Network Map. The updated [2024 High Injury Network \(HIN\) map](#) identifies San Francisco streets where the most severe and fatal traffic injuries occur. A key 100-day action in Mayor Lurie's [Street Safety Initiative executive directive](#), the City can better understand crash trends, identify best safety interventions to reduce the risk of severe traffic injuries and fatalities.

In partnership with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) and the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD), DPH collects and analyzes hospital data, vital records, and



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police report data to inform the City's HIN which identifies San Francisco streets where severe and fatal injuries are most concentrated. DPH acts as the data bridge between teams that design streets and teams that respond to emergencies—providing a powerful tool in the City's toolbox to help focus resources on the neighborhoods and residents most at risk.

RECOGNIZING OUR ZSFG SOCIAL WORKERS

This month, ZSFG celebrated social workers across the campus who bridge medical care and real-world needs for patients. Working closely with clinical teams and community partners, they ensure patients receive safe, compassionate, and coordinated care—especially during life's most difficult moments.

At the Social Worker Awareness Month award ceremony on March 26, ZSFG recognized the vital work of social workers as they were honored with a Certificate of Honor from District 9 Supervisor Jackie Fielder, presented by Director Daniel Tsai. This was a meaningful acknowledgment of the profound impact social workers have across our hospital and community.

A special congratulations to this year's awardees for exceptional service and outstanding contributions to patient care:

- Amy Kwan, 5M Women's Health Center (DPH)
- Wyatt Barcelo, Inpatient Hospital Team (DPH)
- Caroline Belli, BHC (DPH)
- Shayla Goldlist, PES (UCSF)
- Jason Herbert, OTOP (UCSF)
- Megan Oakes, ED Case Management (UCSF)

Congratulations and thank you to all Social Workers across the ZSFG campus!

ZSFG HOSTS COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS EVENT

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, and the Gastroenterology Team marked the occasion on March 19 with an inflatable walkthrough colon displayed in ZSFG's Bank of America Plaza. The interactive model offered staff, patients, and visitors a hands on way to learn about colorectal cancer risks, prevention, and the importance of early detection.

Endoscopy and nutrition staff, along with community partners such as the San Francisco Cancer Initiative (SFCAN) and Project Open Hand, were present to answer questions, share evidence-based screening guidelines, and highlight resources available at ZSFG. The event prompted meaningful conversations about the lifesaving impact of early screening and encouraged attendees to consider scheduling a screening for themselves or loved ones.



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The Gastroenterology Team's efforts reflect ZSFG's commitment to community education, prevention, and improving long-term health outcomes, ensuring that patients have access to both high quality care and the knowledge needed to support overall wellness.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF THE TRAUMA NURSE PRACTITIONER PROGRAM

ZSFG's Trauma Nurse Practitioner (NP) Program, is celebrating 25 years in 2026. As we celebrate this milestone, we also recognize the retirement of Dr. Robert C. Mackersie, whose vision and leadership were instrumental in establishing the program in 2001. His legacy lives on in every patient cared for and every provider he has inspired.

The Trauma NP program has been a cornerstone of ZSFG trauma services, providing expert, timely, and compassionate care to patients when they need it most. From the bedside to system-wide coordination, the Trauma NPs have played a critical role in improving patient outcomes, supporting multidisciplinary teams, and strengthening the continuum of care across the hospital and community.

The impact of this team and this work extend far beyond the hospital walls, shaping trauma care practices, advancing clinical excellence, and improving the health and well-being of the communities DPH serves. Their work reflects the very best of what it means to deliver high-quality, patient-centered care.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE AND FOOD SAFETY DURING SUPER BOWL WEEK

The DPH Environmental Health Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team (EHERT), a four-member unit operating under the San Francisco Fire Department's incident command structure, provides 24/7/365 response to hazardous materials emergencies. During Super Bowl LX, EHERT supported local, state, and federal partners including DHS, FBI, DOE, and the Army National Guard's 95th Civil Support Team to help ensure public safety for residents and visitors. From January 31 to February 8, 2026, the team conducted radiological monitoring, participated in bioterrorism surveillance and prevention activities, and joined multi-agency safety sweeps across Super Bowl event sites throughout San Francisco. No major hazardous materials incidents occurred during the operational period, reflecting the strong collaboration among responding agencies.

During Super Bowl Week, the Temporary Events Team and District Inspectors provided exceptional support to food safety operations. The team approved 23 temporary food facilities and deployed 18 inspectors citywide to ensure safe food service during this high-impact period. With Super Bowl City attracting approximately 100,000 visitors and another 100,000 attendees participating in additional events, staff effectively safeguarded food operations for an estimated 200,000 extra people in San Francisco. Despite the scale and pace of activities, the team maintained high



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inspection standards, clear communication, and effective partnership with event organizers.

Thank you to every team member and inspector whose commitment, flexibility, and professionalism helped keep San Francisco's events safe and successful during one of the city's busiest weeks.

COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 04/01:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 0.5%.
- Twenty-four percent of SF residents are fully up to date on their COVID vaccinations and have received the updated vaccine.