



## 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 July 21, 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.*

#### **JUNE MARKS LOWEST NUMBER OF OVERDOSE DEATHS IN 2025**

In June 2025, the Office of the Medical Examiner recorded accidental 43 deaths from overdose, the lowest monthly total of the year and a 12% decrease compared to June 2024. While such a decrease is welcome news, it is important to emphasize that DPH is working to achieve *sustained and significant* long-term reductions in overdoses.

Nationally, San Francisco is a leader in expanding access to medications for opioid use disorder. We have strengthened our system of methadone clinics and lead the effort statewide to modernize methadone access. We have made buprenorphine accessible across our entire system through on-demand telehealth, in Primary Care, the hospital, and in street-based, shelter and supportive housing settings. We continue to build towards a treatment and recovery system that is easier to access, clinically effective, and supports long-term stability in order to realize a sustained and lasting reduction in overdoses.

Every overdose death is unacceptable and can be prevented with effective treatment and support for long-term recovery. We have highly effective medications to recover from opioid use disorder are available at no or low cost through Public Health, and any San Franciscan wanting to quit using opioids—including fentanyl, heroin and prescription painkillers—can call us at 888-246-3333 between 8 a.m. and midnight to talk to a provider and get an immediate prescription for buprenorphine.

#### **HIV HEALTH SERVICES FRONTLINE WORKER'S SUMMIT**

In May 2025, DPH's HIV Health Services (HHS) and Community Health Equity & Promotion (CHEP) branches presented *Onboard SF: A Frontline Worker's Summit* at the SF LGBT Center.



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Eighty people attended this inaugural one-day training designed for client-facing workers who are relatively new to the field of HIV, sexually transmitted infection, and hepatitis C care and prevention and drug user health to help them build a community of colleagues, gain a baseline understanding of the systems in which they are working, learn about the core tools available to them, and accelerate their impact as new workers in the field.

The event, done in partnership with the Ending the Epidemics Steering Committee and the SF HIV Frontline Organizing Group, featured representatives from DPH, UCSF, and community partner agencies who presented on topics such as Long-acting Injectable HIV treatment and prevention medications, benefits basics, transgender and Latine/x services landscapes, community organizing, and burnout prevention. A special closing panel of experienced workers shared about their career paths, passion for direct client service, and how they have seen the systems of care and prevention in San Francisco develop since the early days of the HIV epidemic.

Congrats go out to all who make this worker onboarding event a huge success! We look forward to seeing it happen next year and in many years beyond, so new frontline workers feel supported, connected, and energized to make positive impacts on their clients' lives.

### **LAGUNA HONDA'S POSITIVE CARE TEAM PARTICIPATES IN THE SAN FRANCISCO AIDS WALK**

Gratitude to everyone from Laguna Honda Hospital's Positive Care Unit who participated in this year's SF AIDS Walk. For more than 20 years, Laguna Honda staff, residents (both current and former), families, and volunteers have participated in this meaningful event.

Laguna Honda has a rich history of HIV/AIDS care, beginning in 1989. The hospital boasts the country's first dedicated skilled nursing program for people living with HIV/AIDS. From short term rehabilitation to long term skilled nursing, Laguna Honda's dedicated South 2 neighborhood—the Positive Care Unit—continues to provide compassionate and expert care for people living with HIV/AIDS. Here's to Laguna Honda staff, residents, and friends walking together in support of an important cause!

### **SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN FEATURES DPH DOCTORS**

Recently the DPH Communications team launched a video series on social media to help educate the public on pressing health matters. Called "Hear from a Doctor", the inaugural installment features the Medical Director of SF City Clinic, Dr. Oliver Bacon, speaking on [Mpox prevention and](#)



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[treatment](#). Coming soon, Dr. Elaine Khoong of SFHN's Richard H. Fine People's Clinic will give an overview on the leading cause of death in San Francisco—[coronary artery disease](#). Other topics showing up soon in your social media feed, signs of [heat stroke](#) and [heat exhaustion](#), naloxone, and treatment options for substance use disorders.

### **DPH UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS RESULT IN LAWSUIT AGAINST ILLEGAL BUSINESS**

On Friday, July 11, City Attorney David Chiu filed a lawsuit against the Empire Spa on O'Farrell Street, which is suspected of operating as a brothel under the guise of being a "relaxation spa." The lawsuit alleges that the business operators and property owners are running their business as a public nuisance that substantially endangers the health, welfare, and safety of San Franciscans.

DPH's Environmental Health Inspectors have contributed to the City's ability to file this lawsuit by conducting undercover operations, the most recent having been in February, wherein the undercover inspector witnessed seven female employees wearing lingerie and offering sexual acts in exchange for payment. Previous undercover operations by our public health officials, as well as the Police Department, have substantiated these findings, as well as evidence of expired professional licenses and evidence that the premises are being used for housing, which is in violation of planning and health codes.

Thanks to the persistent work of our Health Inspectors and their cooperative efforts with other City departments, the City Attorney's Office has been able to seek a court order to shutter this business as well as seek an injunction to permanently bar the property from being used as a massage business.

### **ZSFG AWARDED NEONATAL ICU AWARD**

ZSFG Hospital has been named the 2025 NICU of the Year and a finalist for the Hospital of the Year Lactation Impact Award by the California Breastfeeding Coalition.

The NICU at ZSFG continues to lead the way in advancing equity-focused, evidence-based lactation care. With exclusive breastfeeding rates well above the state average, the team fosters a culture that recognizes lactation as essential to infant health and parent-infant bonding—no matter a family's circumstances.

From Black Centering programs to the donor milk program which will be having its second milk drive on August 27, and to providing trauma-informed support, ZSFG's culturally responsive programs are helping families overcome systemic barriers and thrive.



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Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to the multidisciplinary team of bedside nurses, lactation consultants, occupational therapists, dietitians, and providers for their deep commitment to clinical excellence, health equity, and compassionate care. This recognition is another testament to the quality of care ZSFG provides to our patient community.

### **ZSFG CEO RECOGNIZED WITH BECKER AWARD**

Congratulations to ZSFG's CEO, Dr. Susan Ehrlich, for being recognized as one of the women hospital CEOs to know in 2025 by Becker's Hospital Review—a publication for every informed decision-maker in hospitals and health systems. We are inspired by her leadership in providing compassionate care to our diverse patient community and to the staff at ZSFG.

As the CEO of the City's safety-net hospital and only Level 1 trauma center, Dr. Ehrlich continues to transform public health care and make a positive impact on our community. As Becker shares, she is one of the "inspiring leaders and champions of expanding care access, advancing equity and inclusion, and driving meaningful improvements in how healthcare is delivered," and that her "vision and leadership are shaping a stronger, more inclusive future for healthcare."

Congratulations, Dr. Ehrlich!

### **ZSFG EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT RESPONDS TO BUSY FOURTH OF JULY WEEKEND**

Over the July 4<sup>th</sup> long-weekend, ZSFG Hospital once again stood ready to provide care to the community. From emergency response to trauma care, the teams at ZSFG worked around the clock to ensure everyone received the care they needed. From July 3-5, ZSFG's emergency department provided care to 12 patients who experienced blast injuries from fireworks to the face and hands. At the same time, they responded to the mass casualty incident in the City where four patients were transported to the hospital with gunshot wounds for care.

This is another reminder of the dedication of our amazing emergency room staff, where care never takes a holiday. Thank you to the emergency and trauma teams for all they do for our community.

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

As of 7/16:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 4.9%.



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- Thirty-one percent of SF residents are fully up to date on their COVID vaccinations and have received the updated vaccine.