



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 August 4, 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.

BUDGET UPDATE

On July 24, and following a 10-1 vote by the Board of Supervisors, [Mayor Lurie signed the City's budget for fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27 into law.](#)

This budget cycle has brought us face-to-face with a hard reality: expenditures are outpacing revenues—a reality that impacts every department, including ours. For several years, DPH's General Fund contribution has remained flat, while our revenue has increased. In the budget, DPH has committed to growing our revenue by more than \$400 million during the next two fiscal years in order to preserve vital services in light of the current fiscal climate. Future years continue to pose challenges to cover the costs of inflation and agreed upon increases to pay and benefits. To stay in balance, we must also realign existing services and ensure we prioritize essential programs.

There are no layoffs of DPH staff. While no layoffs are occurring, there will be a reduction of 200 positions—most of which are vacant. Approximately 25 positions will be realigned, with staff transitioning into new roles within their current classification. We are committed to ensuring no break in service, and that base salary, benefits, seniority, and accrued time remain unchanged.

As we navigate through these challenging times, DPH is taking thoughtful steps to ensure that the services we provide to our communities remain effective and sustainable. We will also be making strategic changes in how we work with community-based organizations (CBOs). The budget included another \$6.3 million in targeted reductions starting in FY 2025-26 and a further \$17 million in unallocated reductions in FY 2026-27. While this represents less than 10% of our General Fund contracts, it will require careful, strategic decision-making, and we are working closely with our partners to navigate these changes.



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The budget also contains significant new investments in behavioral health services to build a more responsive system for treatment and recovery that addresses the challenges on our streets. The difficulty of retaining individuals in treatment is significant, and we are expanding intensive outpatient treatment, case management, and innovative models to ensure that individuals receive the ongoing support necessary to break the cycle of crisis and stabilize for the long term.

Alongside these adjustments, the federal and state landscape is shifting, with significant cuts to healthcare funding, including changes to Medicaid/Medi-Cal and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). These changes in state and federal funding are expected to impact thousands of residents in San Francisco, particularly our undocumented communities.

As these changes unfold, we recognize that their full impact remains uncertain. While we are taking steps to address the challenges ahead, the effects of these adjustments are likely to be significant, and we must remain adaptable as we navigate this evolving landscape. By redirecting resources, focusing on high-impact areas, and continuing our collaboration with community partners, we can ensure that San Francisco's healthcare system remain responsive.

BAY AREA HEALTH OFFICIALS ENCOURAGE BACK-TO-SCHOOL IMMUNIZATIONS

DPH [joined](#) health departments across the Bay Area to encourage families to plan for back-to-school immunizations. Safe and effective vaccines are the best way to prevent the spread of diseases such as measles and whooping cough. The press release was covered by the [San Francisco Chronicle](#), [KRON](#), [Sing Tao](#), [World Journal](#), and KIQI Spanish radio. People are encouraged to visit <https://www.sf.gov/get-vaccines> for more information.

SUNNYDALE/VISITACION VALLEY HEALTH FAIR

On Saturday July 26, several of our DPH teams, including Office of Health Equity, Community and Home Injury Prevention for Seniors and Public Health, and Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEPR), participated in the Sunnydale/Visitation Valley Health Fair. With over 100 people in attendance, we were proud to offer free services like mammograms, blood pressure checks, mental health assessments, tobacco prevention resources and emergency preparedness information.

Events like these help us bring care and resources directly to community supporting health, equity, and connection. See photos [here](#).



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CELEBRATING FIFTEEN PROMOTORES COMPLETING DPH COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE TRAINING

After four months of learning and collaboration, we are proud to celebrate the completion of our Promotores Community of Practice training at DPH. Fifteen Promotores participated in the powerful program, which equips community leaders with the tools and knowledge to support health education, outreach, and equity in their neighborhoods. The Spanish-language curriculum was developed by Dr. Berta Hernandez at DPH and reflects our commitment to culturally rooted, community-led public health. Thank you to the Promotores for their dedication and for being the bridge between public health and the communities we serve. See photos [here](#).

AUGUST IS NATIONAL BREASTFEEDING AWARENESS MONTH

August is the month of National Breastfeeding Awareness, and San Francisco Health Network (SFHN) has a lot to celebrate. On August 6th, 11:30am-1:00pm at Civic Center Plaza, Director of Health Dan Tsai will join more than 70 WIC clients, staff, and members of the SF Breastfeeding Coalition for the 2025 Breastfeeding Walk around Civic Center. This event's aim is to raise awareness for the SFHN programs that uplift and support lactating parents.

And on August 27th, 11:00am-2:00pm at ZSFG Campus – Dr. David Sanchez Way, ZSFG Hospital will be partnering with Mother's Milk Bank to host the second annual "Human Milk Donation Drive." This event is an opportunity to donate frozen milk during Breastfeeding Awareness Month. Just two tablespoons of human milk can help a baby in need thrive. Last year, the event collected over 3,000 oz. of human milk. The milk being collected will help babies here in San Francisco, in the greater Bay Area, and across the nation. DPH extends heartfelt gratitude to all donors.

SFHN'S COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH (CHPY) LEANS IN TO HELP GET KIDS HEALTHY FOR BACK TO SCHOOL

With the first day of SF Unified School District's new school year coming up on August 18th, the staff at our Primary Care Clinics have been bustling to make sure school age children are up-to-date on their vaccinations and sports physicals. This year, to continue to make sure all patients have timely access to care, the Primary Care Population Health Team and CHPY are working together by reaching out to those school aged SFHN patients who have either not yet been assigned a medical home or have not been to see their provider in the past 36 months. The goal is to get them examined and treated at one of our five CHPY clinics and then assigned to a medical home at one of our 13 Primary Care Clinics.



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ZSFG EMERGENCY MEDICINE TEAM PROVIDING CARE AT SF'S LARGEST SUMMER EVENTS

Over the past few months, members of the Emergency Medicine team at ZSFG Hospital have provided medical care at some of the city's largest public events. During May's Bay to Breakers race, the team staffed a finish line medical station to support runners in need. In June, they delivered medical coverage at the 55th Annual San Francisco Pride Celebration, treating more than 200 individuals over the weekend and helping ensure a safe and joyful event for all attendees. From sprained ankles and sunburns to asthma, allergic reactions, and eye injuries, clinicians responded to a wide range of needs with expertise and compassion.

In partnership with UCSF Health, the Department of Emergency Medicine also staffs the First Aid tent at Oracle Park during Giants games and select concerts—bringing care to where it's needed most.

This presence at large-scale events ensures the city is prepared to respond in the event of a public health emergency. It also reduces strain on emergency departments by providing timely on-site care, preserving hospital resources for the most critical patients. These efforts reflect DPH's commitment to keeping San Franciscans healthy and safe—both in and beyond the hospital setting.

ZSFG ENHANCING STAFF AND PATIENT SAFETY WITH NEW SECURITY SCANNERS IN BUILDINGS 5 & 25

To further support a safe and welcoming environment, ZSFG installed AI-powered weapons detection systems at the main entrances of Building 25 and Building 5. These systems use electromagnetic sensors, visual cameras, and real-time computing to detect concealed weapons with minimal false alarms—ensuring both safety and smooth entry for staff, patients, and visitors.

The installation is part of ZSFG's broader effort to protect everyone on campus. Over the past year, the Assault Governance Task Force—which includes hospital leaders, the Sheriff's Office, and DPH Security Services—has developed a comprehensive plan to reduce moderate and major assaults against staff. A key strategy is preventing weapons from entering the hospital.

Although California Assembly Bill 2975 requires healthcare facilities to implement weapons detection by 2027, ZSFG has moved ahead to adopt the system early in support of its goal to keep staff and patients safe.



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The task force worked closely with hospital and security teams to support a smooth rollout and ensure understanding among staff, patients, and visitors. Security staff will continue to monitor usage and track incident data to evaluate system impact.

We are grateful to all staff, partners, and departments whose collaboration and dedication are helping to create a safer, more supportive environment for everyone at ZSFG.

COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 7/30:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 7.4%.
- Thirty-one percent of SF residents are fully up to date on their COVID vaccinations and have received the updated vaccine.