



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 September 15, 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.

DIRECTOR TSAI VISITS LAGUNA HONDA, BRIDGE CLINIC, WARD 86 AND CASTRO-MISSION HEALTH CENTER

During the month of August, DPH Director Dan Tsai made a series of in-person visits to locations across the San Francisco Health Network (SFHN), connecting directly with staff and witnessing the impactful work happening on the ground.

Fittingly, his first stop was at San Francisco's first public health neighborhood clinic: Castro-Mission Health Center. He toured the facility and met with dedicated teams from Primary Care as well as the Dimensions Clinic, which specializes in healthcare for LGBTQ+ youth and Gender Health SF, which helps transgender and gender-expansive adults get connected to gender-affirming care.

The next day he met with the team of doctors and addiction specialists at Family Health Center's Bridge clinic, which helps people make their first steps towards recovery from substance use disorder.

The following week he dropped in at Ward 86 to get a firsthand look at the pioneering work continuing to be done to support those living with HIV—a legacy of innovation and compassion that continues to evolve.

He rounded out his in-person visits by attending the All-staff Town Hall at Laguna Honda Hospital, where he shared how valuable it was to connect with staff, learn more about their work, and gain insights into the challenges and opportunities shaping our facility. Thank you to everyone who welcomed Director Tsai and shared openly.



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DPH BIRD FLU SURVEILLANCE AND INVESTIGATION EFFORTS RECOGNIZED

On September 4, 2025, the CDC published its Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), which included a report authored by DPH, CDC, and CDPH officials regarding San Francisco's first human bird flu case. The report outlines the surveillance work DPH conducted to detect human bird flu in San Francisco, as well as the investigation that occurred following the positive test. We are grateful that our surveillance and investigation efforts have been recognized by the CDC as an example for the rest of the country. The MMWR can be read [here](#).

BLACK 2 SAN FRANCISCO INTERNS WRAP UP THEIR SUMMER AT PRIMARY CARE

For the second summer in a row, interns—mainly from historically black colleges and universities—came to San Francisco in an initiative sponsored by the Human Rights Commission to help cultivate future public service leaders in tech, education, policy, and healthcare.

This year, seven of those Black 2 San Francisco interns rotated through various Primary Care clinic sites including Castro Mission Health Center, Southeast Family Health Center, and Potrero Hill Health Center, shadowing doctors, nurses, dentists, medical assistants, eligibility staff, behavioral health clinicians, nutritionists, behavioral assistant, dermatologists, and our partners at the Food as Medicine Collaborative.

Thank you to all who hosted and warmly welcomed our interns, and for generously sharing your knowledge and expertise to help them learn and grow.

OPIATE TREATMENT OUTPATIENT AND OFFICE-BASED OPIATE TREATMENT PROGRAMS SUCCESSFUL SURVEY

Congratulations to the Opiate Treatment Outpatient and Office-Based Opiate Treatment Programs for passing their California Department of Health Care Service four-day annual survey with zero deficiencies the week of August 11. The surveyor expressed exceptionally positive feedback, highlighting the team's responsiveness, dedication, and commitment. Congratulations for this outstanding achievement and for the ongoing delivery of high-quality, patient-centered care. Thank you to the ZSFG Regulatory Affairs team for supporting this survey and for their help throughout the year.



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NEW CHIEF OF THE UCSF DIVISION OF CARDIOLOGY AT ZSFG

In mid-August, UCSF announced that Mary O. Gray, MD is the new UCSF Division of Cardiology at ZSFG. Dr. Gray's career is dedicated to academic excellence and the humanitarian mission of ZSFG. She expands patient access to high-quality care for cardiovascular disorders, thereby benefitting individuals from every walk of life. Her ZSFG leadership roles connect physicians, nurses, clinical pharmacists, and informatics experts across services to decrease healthcare risks and improve delivery systems. Dr. Gray is an outstanding leader, clinician, and educator who has an extraordinary commitment to ZSFG.

NEW DIRECTOR OF BUDGET AND DECISION SUPPORT AT ZSFG

Peter Chow has been appointed ZSFG's new Director of Budget and Decision Support. Peter joined DPH in 2011 and his work has involved close coordination with more than 30 City departments, managing interdepartmental agreements, professional service contracts, and multi-year continuing project funds. He is highly experienced with the City & County's financial system and has developed tools to automate key financial projections and enhance data visibility. In his new role, Peter looks forward to supporting ZSFG by managing resources wisely, providing timely and accurate financial information, and making a meaningful difference in how care is delivered to our community.

LAUNCH OF STAFF DEVELOPMENT ADDICTION CARE CAMPAIGN

DPH recognized International Overdose Awareness Day on August 31. The Addiction Care and Pharmacy teams provided outreach and education on overdose prevention to staff and the public who all learned practical ways to prevent overdose and received free Narcan and Fentanyl Test Strips to support safer communities. The Addiction Care Team, in partnership with the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation, also launched a staff education campaign, Every ACT Matters, aimed at transforming how ZSFG cares for people with substance use disorders. Drawing on addiction medicine champions and people with lived experience, a series of videos remind staff that everyone has a role to play in someone's road to recovery. The videos also include trusted colleagues and experts about how staff can show up with compassion and curiosity.

FAMILY BIRTH CENTER & NICU HOST 2ND ANNUAL MILK DRIVE

On August 27th, ZSFG's Family Birth Center and the NICU partnered with Mothers Milk Bank to host the second annual Milk Drive during National Breastfeeding Awareness Month. The team collected nearly 2,000 ounces, or 4,000 tablespoons, of frozen milk on the day of the event with more pledged to come in. Just two tablespoons of donated human milk can help a baby in need



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thrive. Donations are already nourishing and protecting some of ZSFG's most vulnerable babies as well as babies across the country. This generosity from donors helps ensure every baby has a fighting chance, no matter their start in life. The event is an example of putting health equity into action and demonstrating what compassionate care looks like. ZSFG earned a Baby-Friendly designation, first achieved in 2007, from the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) launched by WHO and UNICEF which demonstrates a commitment to providing the best possible support for breast/chest feeding. ZSFG goes through an extensive recertification process every five years, which includes staff training and quality improvement projects, and the unit was just recertified in 2024. In July, ZSFG was honored as the 2025 NICU of the Year by the California Breastfeeding Coalition.

Thank you to Lactation Consultants and Nurses, Catalina Perez and Amalia Deck, nurse managers of the NICU and Birth Center, Shilu Rachmand and Jessica O'Rourke, and ZSFG's Chief Nursing Officer, Gillian Otway, for their leadership. Gratitude to the NICU and Labor and Delivery teams for their care to families throughout the year.

ZSFG FEATURED ON KGO TV FOR PIONEERING WORK TO PROVIDE SURGICAL CARE TO VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

ZSFG was featured on KGO TV for the pilot Project REACH program, a first-of-its-kind program offering early surgical care to people experiencing homelessness. Instead of waiting until conditions worsen and require emergency treatment, outreach teams connect unhoused patients with needed procedures at ZSFG, along with supportive services like housing, food, and recovery care. The program is supported by the San Francisco General Hospital Foundation. The clip can be found [here](#).

LATINE/X HERITAGE MONTH STARTS TODAY

Join DPH in honoring Latine/x Heritage month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15). This year's theme, *Collective Heritage: Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future*, celebrates the strength, resilience, and culture of our comunidad. The DPH Office of Health Equity will host an Equity in Focus training for staff in recognition of Latine/x Heritage Month on Sept. 17. The session will feature a discussion on behavioral health in the Latine/x community. From traditions passed down through generations to the fight for health equity today, we honor our shared legacy and work together for a healthier future.

COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 9/10:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 8.5%.



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