City and County of San Francisco
Daniel L. Lurie
Mayor

San Francisco Department of Public Health
Daniel Tsai
Director of Health

Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of November 16, 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.

Groundbreaking for 300 Treatment and Transitional Housing Beds to Support People in Recovery
Mayor Daniel Lurie broke ground on the future Treasure Island Behavioral Health Building that will support 300 beds: 44 beds in a new residential treatment program, 84 new recovery-housing beds, and 172 existing recovery-housing beds that will move from former U.S. Navy housing into the new building. The new Treasure Island facility will join more than 2,900 behavioral health beds operated by DPH for people with substance use disorder and mental health needs.

The transitional recovery-housing beds will offer up to two years of stable housing to people who complete the residential program and have no residence to return to. Onsite services will include housing referrals, employment coaching, connections to outpatient treatment and primary care, case management, and help reunifying with family.

The $72 million project is funded by state and local sources, including the 2020 San Francisco Proposition A "Health and Recovery" Bond, Treasure Island Development Authority (TIDA) impact fees, a Bond Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program Round 2 grant from the California Department of Health Care Services, and a Community Care Expansion grant from the California Department of Social Services. Mercy Housing is leading development of the six-story, 68,000-square-foot building at Trade Winds Avenue and Macky Road, which is expected to be completed in late 2028.

Organizational Announcement: SFHN Director and CEO
I am pleased to announce the appointment of Jacey Cooper as the Director and CEO of the San Francisco Health Network (SFHN), effective Monday, January 4, 2027. Dr. Naveena Bobba will continue serving as Acting Director and CEO during this interim period.

As the Director and CEO of SFHN, which consists of hospitals, ambulatory clinics and community-based programs, Jacey will be responsible for 6,000 employees and an annual operating budget of over $2 billion.

She will be tasked with supporting and leading the committed and talented frontline staff, teams, and leaders we have in SFHN – including leading SFHN and DPH in advancing as an integrated healthcare delivery system that is patient centered, supports our staff, reduces health disparities, improves outcomes and experience, and helps us to be the best health delivery system in the world. Her experience and leadership will also be essential in helping SFHN and DPH navigate significant federal and state Medicaid cuts and preserve access to care.

Jacey brings over 20 years of federal, state and delivery system experience as a healthcare policy and operations leader. She served as director of the State Demonstrations Group at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), where she oversaw the agency's efforts to support state-led innovations through Medicaid and CHIP demonstrations. Jacey developed new policy frameworks to support people returning from incarceration, address health-related social needs, expand traditional health care practices and strengthen continuity of coverage, while providing technical assistance to states and issuing federal guidance on financing and fiscal accountability.

Before joining CMS, Jacey held multiple roles with the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), most recently serving as California's state Medicaid director and chief deputy director. During her tenure, she led the design and launch of the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative to improve care coordination, strengthen population health management and better integrate services for Medi-Cal members.

Earlier in her career, Jacey held several leadership roles at Kern Medical, including vice president, where she led efforts to integrate clinical services, expand care management and transition the county hospital to an independent hospital authority. Jacey earned her bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Southern California.

DPH Community Preparedness Ahead of Winter Weather

DPH is preparing winter weather outreach and education efforts to help residents and community partners stay informed and safe during severe weather. Planned activities include a community preparedness webinar and public health guidance on winter weather risks, available resources, and steps residents can take to protect themselves and their families. These efforts aim to strengthen community readiness and reduce health risk associated with winter storms, particularly for populations most vulnerable to severe weather.

DPH Helps San Francisco Businesses Prepare for Winter Storms
DPH's Environmental Health Branch recently partnered with the Office of Small Business and other city agencies to host a webinar helping local businesses prepare for winter storms, power outages, and flooding. The webinar provided practical guidance on maintaining food safety during emergencies, including safe food storage temperatures and steps businesses can take when power is disrupted. This collaborative effort supports local businesses in protecting customers, preventing foodborne illness, and maintaining safe operations during severe weather.

Office of Equity and Community Engagement (OECE) Hosts its Second Annual Promotores Wellness Event
On November 7, 2026, the Office of Equity and Community Engagement (OECE) hosted its second annual Promotores Wellness Event, Junto Tenemos Más Poder ("Together We Have More Power"), bringing together DPH staff, promotores ("community health workers"), and city agency partners for a daylong program planning and wellness event. OECE facilitates monthly sessions with a Promotores Community of Practice and convenes promotores annually for a daylong event.

OECE Director Isela Ford and Dr. Susan Philip provided opening remarks. Community Health Equity and Promotion (CHEP) staff provided sexual health educational materials and promoted its at-home STI testing program, Take Me Home. PHD Center for Learning and Innovation (CLI) staff supported the event and the monthly Promotores Community of Practice. Nearly 50 promotores attended the event and several promotores provided a report back from a statewide gathering.

The event serves as a key annual touchpoint for relationship building across the Latine promotor network and furthers DPH goals to promote health equity and language access. A joint cross-cultural gathering of English speaking and non-English speaking community health workers is planned for 2027.

Food Security Council
On October 13, the Mayor signed legislation establishing a citywide Office of Food Coordination housed at the SF Human Services Agency (HSA). On July 27 through a mayoral directive the Mayor created a new Food Security Council. HSA will provide administrative support to the Food Security Council. The Food Security Council replaces the Food Security Task Force which was administered by DPH. The Food Security Task Force ended as of June 30, 2026. DPH will have a seat on the Food Security Council alongside community partners and other city departments. Much like the Food Security Task Force, the Council will serve the purpose of making recommendations on policies and programs to improve food security. DPH continues to fulfill its legislative mandate to complete the Biennial Food Security and Equity Report. Upon completion of the next report in February 2027, food security data reporting will shift from DPH to HSA.

DPH continues to maintain the community relationships built from years of convening the Food Security Task Force. In October 2026, the CHEP Healthy Eating Active Living Team hosted two three-hour long community workshops with community partners to share citywide data on food security and gather recommendations for increasing equitable food access and improving the city's food system. Moving forward, DPH will serve a critical role in reporting data on its food programs, notably supplemental food funding for WIC and CalFresh recipients, and provide technical expertise on prevention of nutrition sensitive health conditions.

26 Families Celebrate Graduation from Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health (MCAH) Nurse-Family Partnership Program

DPH's Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health (MCAH) division recently celebrated 26 families graduating from the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), a nationally recognized, evidence-based home visiting program for low-income, first-time parents. For more than two years, each graduate partnered closely with a Public Health Nurse from early pregnancy until their child's second birthday, receiving guidance on prenatal health, child development, breastfeeding, postpartum depression, family planning, and connections to resources that support long-term stability.

This year's celebration also honored longtime Public Health Nurse Ileana Burleson, who is retiring after 28 years of service—12 of those with NFP. Her impact is reflected in countless family successes, including a recent graduate who shared that she has opened her own daycare, a powerful example of NFP's focus on supporting parents toward economic self-sufficiency.

Since 2012, San Francisco's NFP program has served more than 1,000 families and continues to demonstrate strong outcomes, including higher breastfeeding initiation rates and reduced rates of closely spaced pregnancies. These graduations, held every spring and fall, highlight the dedication of both the families who commit to this multiyear journey and the nurses who walk alongside them. Congratulations to our newest graduates—and thank you to the MCAH team for building healthier futures for San Francisco families.

ZSFG Launches Omnicell Anesthesia Workstations in Procedural Areas

The Pharmacy and Anesthesia Departments at ZSFG successfully launched Omnicell Anesthesia Workstations (AWS) in the hospital's procedural areas. The launch is a major advancement in medication management technology since the move into Building 25.

The AWS provides secure access to medications, strengthens medication tracking and reconciliation, and enables real-time documentation. Its integration with Epic creates a connected, closed-loop medication use process, a significant improvement over our previous state, which lacked interoperability. Together, these capabilities advance medication safety, accountability, and workflow efficiency in one of our highest-risk care environments.

I extend my sincere gratitude to ZSFG leadership, the Pharmacy IT Team, the Department of Pharmacy, and the Department of Anesthesia for the collaboration, expertise, and dedication that made this implementation possible.

COVID-19 Update

As of 11/12:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 4.5%.
- Twenty-seven percent of SF residents are fully up to date on their COVID vaccinations and have received the updated vaccine.