



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 2, 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.

### **DPH'S Potrero Hill Health Center Celebrates 50 Years of Community-Centered Care**

DPH celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Potrero Hill Health Center, a milestone rooted in the power of community advocacy and decades of partnership between residents and the City. What began as a grassroots effort to secure accessible, affordable health care in Potrero Hill has grown into one of San Francisco's most trusted neighborhood health centers.

Today, the health center remains an essential part of the San Francisco Health Network, DPH's public healthcare system, serving more than 12,000 patients annually. Potrero Hill Health Center provides a wide range of primary care services including behavioral health, addiction treatment, nutrition support, dental care, podiatry, pharmacy consultation, social services, acupuncture, and management of chronic illnesses, such as high blood pressure and diabetes. The Potrero Hill Health Center provides culturally responsive and trauma informed care in a setting designed to connect patients and their families with all of the providers and programs needed to lead healthier lives.

The health center's story began in the early 1970s, when Potrero Hill residents organized to demand a local clinic that reflected the needs and experiences of the neighborhood. Community members conducted their own assessments, made their case to city leaders, and worked directly with public health officials to plan a facility that would bring care closer to home. Their persistence led to the opening of the clinic in 1976, establishing a model for community-driven health care that continues to guide the center's work today.

For five decades, the clinic has remained grounded in the values that shaped its creation. Generations of staff have provided comprehensive services ranging from primary care and behavioral health to addiction treatment, dental care, nutrition support, and social services. The



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anniversary celebration honored the residents, advocates, and staff whose dedication has ensured the clinic's success across half a century.

As the Department of Public Health strengthens neighborhood-based care across the city, the Potrero Hill Health Center remains a powerful example of what can be achieved when community advocacy and public health come together. The center will continue to grow in partnership with residents, ensuring that Potrero Hill has access to high-quality, culturally responsive care for generations to come.

### **Health Alert: MGM-15**

Behavioral Health Services issued a health alert on October 21 to warn providers and the public about a kratom-derived opioid that recently caused a fatal overdose in San Francisco. Dihydro-7-hydroxymirragynine, also known as MGM-15, is a semi-synthetic kratom-derived opioid that is not approved for any medical use. Despite being illegal for sale in California, MGM-15 products can be found in smoke shops and gas stations in products marketed as "uncaria tomentosa" or "cat's claw" or as a botanical/herbal supplement. DPH advises that people avoid products with MGM-15 and other kratom derivatives such as 7-hydroxymirragynine (7-OH) as they pose as overdose risk. DPH recommends administering naloxone to anyone who appears to be overdosing and calling 911. Read the health alert here: [Health Alert: Potent New Semi-Synthetic Opioid \(MGM-15\) Detected in SF Overdose Death | SF.gov](#)

### **Good Neighbor Policy Update**

In October, DPH and the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) trained staff at DPH client-serving and HSH-funded programs on the new Citywide Good Neighbor Policy to ensure sites are well-managed and are not negatively impacting their surrounding neighborhoods. While the Good Neighbor Policy has been in effect since 2024, the updated policy strengthens the framework by unifying expectations and making them consistent, clearly defined and contractually enforceable. The City has created the Good Neighbor App to track, report and escalate issues affecting street conditions under the revamped policy that will go into effect early next year.

### **CHEP Continues Sexual Health Outreach at Community Fairs**

CHEP has continued its sexual health outreach at annual sex-positive community fairs, including Dore Alley Fair, Folsom Street Fair, and Castro Street Fair. On September 27 at the Folsom Street Fair, CHEP, City Clinic, and DPH Immunization Program collaborated with Have Good Sex ambassadors, SF Community Health Center, Mission Wellness Pharmacy, and Walgreens to conduct sexual health outreach, STI testing, vaccinations, and linkages to PrEP and Doxy-PEP. DPH staff joined community partners to administer 152 flu shots, 30 COVID-19 vaccines, and 20 Mpox vaccines; distributed 240 Narcan kits and 350 condoms; and tested 67 people, including 66 HIV, 62 Hepatitis C, and 56 syphilis. On October 4, CHEP partnered with SF Community Health Center at the Castro Street Fair to engage attendees in interactive STI Jeopardy and distributed more than 200



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Have Good Sex promotional materials to encourage participation in at-home STI testing and treatment services.

### **Tobacco Free Project Continues Community Engagement**

CHEP's Tobacco Free Project (TFP) has continued their community engagement to promote culturally focused tobacco cessation. On August 15, TFP co-sponsored the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual All My Usos Family Day BBQ. All My Usos (AMU) is a community organization that serves an essential role in providing resources and support to the Pacific Islander community. At the event, CHEP staff promoted the AMU tobacco cessation class, completed 12 overdose prevention trainings, distributed 20 boxes of naloxone, and provided education on senior fall prevention and sugary drinks. On October 17, TFP tabled at the 31<sup>st</sup> Chinatown Community Health Fair to promote a new tobacco cessation class in Cantonese beginning in the fall of 2027 which will be hosted at the Chinatown YMCA. TFP launched their ad campaign through social media and with community partners in the San Francisco Tobacco Free Coalition to educate the public on the harmful impact of secondhand smoking in multi-unit housing. TFP is also gathering stories from people impacted by secondhand smoke in the home and distributing air purifiers.

### **WISHES Team Participates in the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual SF Recovery Day**

On September 4, CHEP Wellness Initiative for Sexual Health Equity and Safer Use (WISHES) Team participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual SF Recovery Day hosted by Tenderloin Housing Clinic at Boeddeker Park. SF Recovery Day is an annual community celebration that honors people in recovery from drug addiction, connects individuals with local treatment resources, and reduces the stigma surrounding substance use disorders. The event was started by Richard Beal of the Tenderloin Housing Clinic and co-founder of Brothers Against Drug Deaths. CHEP distributed 60 Narcan kits and provided overdose training; and provided educational materials on Hepatitis C and substance use disorder treatment options.

### **DPH Climate Change Initiative Included as Model Practice in Statewide Report**

DPH's interdepartmental [Heat and Air Quality Resilience Project \(HAQR\)](#) was identified as a model case study in [California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment Bay Area Regional Report](#). The assessment is a cornerstone of the state's climate preparedness efforts. It inventories climate science, impacts, and adaptation actions in a statewide report and nine regional reports. Co-led by PHEPR's Climate Health Program and the Office of Resilience and Capital Planning, HAQR designs, implements, and evaluates citywide strategies to adapt San Francisco's communities, buildings, and services to extreme heat and wildfire smoke. That work includes the 33 strategies in the [2023 HAQR Resilience Plan](#). Successes include sharing health impact and surface temperature data with the Department of Public Works to prioritize green infrastructure in the city's urban heat islands.

The report's key Bay Area findings on heat and smoke:

- Annual temperatures have risen 1.5°F since the 1981–2001 base period.



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- Cool communities like San Francisco may struggle with even moderate warming.
- Fine particulate pollution from wildfire smoke is projected to rise 20–50% by 2050 due to longer fire seasons and more intense burning.
- The region has the lowest rate of air conditioning ownership, and its electrical grid was built for lower energy demand.

HAQR's inclusion highlights DPH's work to advance equitable, human-scaled climate interventions through planning, community engagement, and data analysis.

### **EHB Food Safety Program Supports Stonestown Galleria Through Enhanced Vector Prevention Training**

The Environmental Health Branch (EHB) Food Safety Program oversees more than 7,000 permitted food facilities across San Francisco's five health districts, ensuring consistent food safety standards and preventing vector activity in complex operating environments. This year, a rising number of food facility closures at Stonestown Galleria, San Francisco's primary mall and a growing culinary destination, prompted concern. As closures mounted, mall management and food operators reached an impasse that served neither public health nor the community.

In response, the Food Safety Program assembled a team with expertise in vector control, food safety, and prevention. The team led a training required by mall management; 18 food facilities attended. It covered what drives vermin activity, regulatory expectations, and the corrective actions needed to stay in compliance. Operators also received written materials documenting procedures and key requirements.

With about 30 food facilities in the mall, consistent prevention across operators is essential to stop repeated closures. The training reinforced core requirements: sealing entry points, eliminating harborage areas, maintaining effective cleaning and sanitizing routines, and removing food and water sources. Operators received clear guidance on applying these standard measures in daily operations, and their participation showed an understanding of the issues and a commitment to the required practices.

Environmental Health will continue to monitor closures at Stonestown Galleria, tracking compliance, assessing whether vermin activity declines, and ensuring operators maintain required preventive measures. This oversight supports consistent public-health protections in one of the city's most concentrated food-service environments.

### **Congratulations to Unit 5B Clinical Research Services**

Surveyors from California Department of Public Health (CDPH) visited ZSFG on September 30 for a scheduled licensing survey at the Clinical Research Service Clinic (5B). Once a small number of supply and workflow follow-up items are complete, Unit 5B Clinical Research Services will be licensed as an outpatient unit of ZSFG. The surveyors commented on the strong collaboration



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between the Clinical Research Services and Pharmacy teams, and on the care that went into preparing for the visit. Thank you to the 5B Clinical Research Services team for their thorough preparation and their engagement with the surveyors. Special thanks to members of the Pharmacy team whose groundwork and participation contributed significantly to the success of the visit, and appreciation to the facilities, capital projects, and laboratory teams for their support. Their work ensured the environment and operational infrastructure were ready and in excellent shape on the day of survey. This achievement reflects the dedication and teamwork across all departments involved. Thank you to everyone who helped reach this important milestone.

### **Department of Psychiatry's Child and Adolescent Support, Advocacy and Resource Center (CASARC) Reaccredited**

On October 14, 2026, the Department of Psychiatry's Child and Adolescent Support, Advocacy and Resource Center (CASARC), part of the Division of Trauma Recovery Services, successfully completed a rigorous national reaccreditation review as the home of San Francisco's Children's Advocacy Center (CAC). Children's Advocacy Centers provide child-focused, safe environments where professionals across multiple disciplines coordinate the investigation, treatment, and prosecution of child abuse. Maintaining national accreditation helps ensure that children and families receive high-quality, evidence-based intervention, resources, and support. CASARC's multidisciplinary team spent more than a year preparing for this review—and their hard work showed. CASARC successfully met the national accreditation standards with no follow-up required! CASARC undergoes this comprehensive accreditation process every five years.

### **ZSFG Successfully Hosts Two Surveys, Including Joint Commission Mock Survey**

On October 14, ZSFG hosted both a Joint Commission mock survey to prepare us for our upcoming triennial hospital-wide survey and the San Francisco Environmental Health Branch's kitchen inspections of Buildings 5 and 25.

- *Joint Commission Mock Survey:*

The mock survey focused on high-level disinfection processes, emergency management, and seclusion and restraint procedures. Our surveyor praised the standardized high-level disinfection documentation process and encouraged staff to use it as a go-to resource. Overall, the surveyor was enthusiastic about the dedication and readiness of our staff.

- *Kitchen Inspections: A Perfect Score*

Both the Building 5 and Building 25 kitchens passed with no violations and no items out of compliance. Congratulations to our Food and Nutrition Services team for their outstanding preparedness.

### **San Francisco General Hospital Foundation Awards Equity & Innovation Grants to ZSFG**



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The San Francisco General Hospital Foundation hosted its Equity & Innovation Grants Award Ceremony at ZSFG on October 14. Two projects each received \$100,000, made possible by the generous support of BMO.

- *RISE (Rehabilitative In-room Support and Engagement)* trains nursing assistants as Restorative Coaches to help patients recovering from serious brain injuries return to their communities sooner, while building career pathways for frontline workers from communities of color.
- *Closing the Gap* aims to reduce readmissions for Family Health Center patients, focusing on disparities affecting Black/African American patients and patients with substance use disorders.

Thank you to the Foundation, its Board, our donors, and the ZSFG teams whose work advances health equity.

### **Honoring the Care, Compassion, and Expertise of the ZSFG Physical Therapy Team**

October is Physical Therapy Month and ZSFG celebrated by thanking the incredible physical therapists and the essential role they play in helping patients recover, regain independence, and improve their quality of life. In the inpatient setting, our PTs work with patients during their hospitalization to help them safely regain mobility, build strength, improve balance, and navigate everyday activities after illness, injury, or surgery. Through early mobilization and collaboration with the care team, they help patients prepare for a safe transition to the next level of care. In the outpatient setting, our PTs continue to support patients on their recovery journey, helping them manage pain, restore movement, improve strength and function, and work toward personal goals. Whether recovering from an injury or managing a chronic condition, patients benefit from the expertise, encouragement, and personalized care our therapists provide.

### **COVID-19 Update**

As of 10/27:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 6.2%.
- Twenty-seven percent of SF residents are fully up to date on their COVID vaccinations and have received the updated vaccine.