



City and County of San Francisco
Daniel L. Lurie
Mayor

Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of April 20, 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.

DPH Confirms Measles Case in SF Infant

On the evening of April 13, the DPH confirmed a case of measles in an unvaccinated San Francisco infant under the age of 12 months. This is the first reported measles case in San Francisco since 2019.

The infant was exposed to measles while traveling internationally, became infectious after returning, and is currently recovering at home. The infant's household contacts all report being vaccinated. DPH is reaching out to close contacts outside of the home to prevent further spread of measles. At this time, the risk to the general public is low. If an individual has been identified as an exposed close contact, they may receive a phone call from DPH or the California Department of Public Health.

Measles is a highly contagious virus that can cause serious illness and death. It spreads easily through the air when a person infectious with measles breathes, talks, coughs, or sneezes; the virus can linger in indoor air for up to an hour. Measles symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose, and conjunctivitis (pink eye), followed 2–4 days later by a rash.

Complications of measles can include pneumonia (the most common cause of death from measles in children), encephalitis (swelling of the brain), and subacute sclerosing panencephalitis (SSPE), a rare but fatal progressive brain disease that develops years after recovery from initial illness. The safe and highly effective measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine offers the best protection against the virus. One dose of the MMR vaccine is 93 percent effective against measles, and two doses are 97 percent effective.



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The MMR vaccine is recommended for children aged 12–15 months, with a second dose administered between ages 4 and 6 years to complete the series. Importantly, infants 6–11 months of age are recommended to receive an early dose of measles vaccine if they will [be traveling internationally](#), and all adults born in 1957 or later and children 12 months and older should ensure they have received two doses of MMR prior to international travel.

For questions about the [MMR vaccine](#) and [immunization records](#), check with your health care provider or access your digital vaccine record. SFDPH will continue to closely monitor for measles activity.

DPH Confirms First Clade I Mpox Case in SF

On April 14, DPH confirmed the first case of clade I mpox in a San Francisco resident. The case occurred in an unvaccinated adult who was hospitalized and is improving. The individual reported close contact with someone who traveled internationally.

DPH strongly encourages [people at risk for mpox](#) to receive both doses of the mpox vaccine. The vaccine provides the best protection against the mpox virus and protects against both clade I and clade II. At this time, mpox exposure risk is low for individuals who are not in higher-risk groups. The mpox vaccine is available through healthcare providers and local pharmacies. Those who do not have insurance or are having difficulty accessing care may visit the locations listed at [sf.gov/mpox](#).

About Mpox

There are two types of mpox, clade I and clade II. The 2022 outbreak in the United States and California was caused by clade II mpox. In the United States, both types are spread primarily through close skin-to-skin contact, including during sexual activity.

Both clade I and clade II mpox cause similar symptoms, which may start with flu-like symptoms such as a fever, swollen lymph nodes or fatigue, followed by a rash that looks like pimples or blisters. People who have a rash that looks like mpox should contact their healthcare provider to get tested and talk to their partners so they can take steps to prevent the spread of infection.

While anyone can get mpox, most reported cases in the United States are among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, as well as transgender persons who have sex with men.

Reported cases of clade I mpox in the United States remain rare. Public health officials are monitoring cases to determine if clade I mpox is more severe than clade II mpox in this country.



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Mpox Vaccine

DPH strongly encourages [people at risk for mpox](#) to receive both doses of the mpox vaccine. This includes people at risk who plan on traveling to places where clade I mpox has been reported, including Europe and Africa.

The mpox vaccine remains the best protection against both clade I and clade II mpox. It significantly reduces the chance of infection, and it helps prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death among people diagnosed with mpox. The mpox vaccine is safe for people who are immunocompromised, including people living with HIV and people taking immune suppressing medications.

People can receive their second dose of the mpox vaccine if it has been at least 28 days since their first dose. There is no need to restart the two-dose series if it has been over 28 days since the first dose. Booster doses are not recommended at this time for people who have completed the two-dose series. In addition, mpox vaccination is not currently recommended for people who have previously been infected.

No vaccine is 100% effective, and people who are fully vaccinated against mpox should still be aware of mpox symptoms and get tested if they have them.

In addition to getting vaccinated, condom use and reducing the number of sexual partners can further decrease the risk of mpox infection.

DPH Reports Significant Declines in Sexually Transmitted Infections In 2025

DPH reported significant declines in syphilis, chlamydia, and gonorrhea cases in 2025. As Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Awareness Week begins, DPH is encouraging the public to take action to protect their sexual health.

In [2025](#), San Francisco saw a 24% decrease in reported syphilis cases, an 18% decrease in chlamydia cases, and a 5% decrease in gonorrhea cases compared to 2024.

The steepest declines in STI cases were among men who have sex with men and transgender women. The decline of STI cases in these populations has followed the implementation and use of doxy-PEP, an antibiotic taken after sex that is highly effective at preventing syphilis and chlamydia. DPH was the first health department in the county to release doxy-PEP guidance in 2022. People are encouraged to talk to their provider to see if doxy-PEP is right for them.

In addition to learning about doxy-PEP, DPH encourages the public to take the following steps this STI Awareness Week and all year long:



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- Talk with your partners and provider about when you last tested for an STI and make testing part of your regular health routine. It can even be done at [home](#).
- If you test positive for an STI, tell your partners and get treated right away.
- Learn about [HIV PrEP](#). PrEP is for people of all genders and more than 99% effective against HIV when taken as directed.
- Get [vaccinated](#) to help prevent hepatitis A, hepatitis B, human papillomavirus (HPV), meningitis, and mpox infections.
- Use [condoms](#) for additional protection for you and your partners

STI testing, prevention options, and treatment are available through insurance. People who do not have insurance or do not have a primary care provider are welcome to explore the following resources:

- San Francisco City Clinic: www.sf.gov/cityclinic
- Health Access Points: www.sf.gov/information--health-access-point-hap
- Take Me Home: www.takemehome.org

SF Environmental Health Agriculture Program: Pest Exclusion Dog Teams

Within California, County Agricultural Commissioners are responsible for enforcing state laws and regulations that prevent the introduction and spread of invasive pests. As part of this statewide system, the San Francisco Environmental Health Agriculture Program has recently partnered with the California Pest Exclusion Dog Teams and participates in pest-exclusion activities that protect both California's agricultural economy and natural environment.

The California Pest Exclusion Dog Teams enhance inspection and surveillance of plant products entering the state through parcel delivery facilities and airfreight terminals. These trained canines identify both marked and unmarked parcels containing agricultural products or actionable pests (i.e. organisms that could cause significant ecological or economic harm if they became established in California). With more than 8 million parcels arriving in the state each day, they have recorded more than 15,900 pest detection events, and invasive pest quarantines can cost anywhere from \$2 million to over \$20 million.

For San Francisco's Environmental Health Agriculture Program, this statewide system directly supports local operations. When dog teams flag parcels entering the region, DPH Agricultural Inspectors are responsible for opening and examining the shipments for unwanted plant pests, such as insects, plant diseases, or other harmful organisms that could threaten California's environment or economy. Depending on what is found, problematic shipments may be returned to the sender or destroyed in compliance with state and federal requirements. This new partnership and program is another example of the great work our Agriculture Program contributes to the health and safety of the public and environment!



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Voices of Cancer Care – Lived Experience Forum

On April 8, Cancer Care and Patient Care Experience teams at ZSFG hosted the “Voices of Cancer Care – Lived Experience Forum.” This milestone was a powerful example of how we strive to serve our community, keeping patient voice, experience and engagement at the forefront. The forum created an important opportunity to hear directly from patients about their cancer care experiences, including what is working well and where improvements can be made in access, care and support.

Participants previewed the new ZSFG Cancer Care Website, a comprehensive roadmap through the cancer care journey, bringing together information and resources to better support patients and their loved ones throughout diagnosis, treatment and recovery. Participants also provided topics and feedback in planning future cancer patient support groups/classes.

The forum demonstrated the important partnership between patients and members of ZSFG’s multidisciplinary care team, including leadership and frontline staff. Their shared insights will help guide future improvements and ensure the patient voice remains at the forefront of the compassionate care at ZSFG.

ZSFG Tours High Schoolers to Help Inspire Future Health Care Careers

On March 31, students from Capuchino High School in San Bruno and Latitude High School in Oakland visited ZSFG for a behind-the-scenes tour and staff meet-and-greets. Their visit included stops in the emergency department, an operating room, and the NICU, along with hands-on CPR and Stop the Bleed trainings led by respiratory therapists and the trauma team. Students also learned how to take and understand vital signs and explored the role of nutrition in patient care.

Throughout the day, they met nurses, physicians, nutritionists, social workers, and therapists from Psych, Med Surg, ED, Ambulatory, Trauma, and Maternal Child Health.

The visit offered students a firsthand look at the wide range of careers in health care and the essential work happening across the hospital every day. Experiences like these help spark curiosity, build pathways into health professions, and inspire the future workforce that will serve our communities.

ZSFG's Chief of Neurosurgery Featured in National Publication during Brain Injury Awareness Month

ZSFG’s Chief of Neurosurgery, Dr. Geoff Manley, was featured in STAT News, a National Publication, during Brain Injury Awareness Month for exemplifying the trust at the core of health care and health equity. A patient shared deep appreciation for Dr. Manley’s approach while receiving care for a traumatic brain injury, highlighting how patients value humility, transparency, and being heard.



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The patient noted that clinicians who earned the most trust were those who, like Dr. Manley, acknowledged uncertainty and treated lived experience as essential to care. Dr. Manley, who performed the life-saving surgery, paired exceptional clinical skill with clear communication, active listening, and genuine partnership with the patient and family. He explained what was known, what was uncertain, and what time would reveal, creating space for questions and observations throughout recovery. Thank you, Dr. Manley, for your example of compassionate care and exemplifying the hospital's commitment to building trust, expanding access, and honoring every patient's experience.

COVID-19 Update

As of 04/15:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 0.5%.
- Twenty-five percent of SF residents are fully up to date on their COVID vaccinations and have received the updated vaccine.