



City and County of San Francisco
Daniel L. Lurie
Mayor

Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of June 1, 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.

Fatal Overdoses Dip to Record Low

The San Francisco Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) count 33 fatal overdoses in San Francisco in April 2026 – a record low in recent years. The OCME began tracking overdose deaths in 2020, following an influx of fentanyl-driven overdoses occurring in the city the year prior. In April 2026, there were 43% fewer overdoses than were counted in April 2025. Year to date, spanning January through April, there were 184 overdoses deaths in San Francisco, 28% fewer than in the same period in 2025.

While encouraged by the downward trend, DPH recognizes that there are numerous factors to cause overdose data to fluctuate. DPH remains committed to investing in high impact interventions to help people access effective substance use treatment and to provide the support to people need to reach lasting stability and sustained recovery.

BEAM Program Reaches 10K Clinical Encounters Milestone

DPH's innovative and groundbreaking low-barrier program to provide medications for opioid use disorder on demand recently reached an exciting milestone. BEAM, which stands for Bringing Expanded Access to Medications is very unique to San Francisco and has been very successful in helping a people on the streets who use fentanyl break the cycle of addiction using a combination of on-demand telehealth, long-acting injectable medication treatment, nighttime street outreach, and follow-up supports.

BEAM started in March 2024 by providing telehealth visits offering an immediate prescription for buprenorphine or a warm handoff to a methadone treatment program to people outreached by the DPH Night Navigation program staffed by Code Tenderloin. By September 2024, our BEAM line was open to anyone in San Francisco who wants to talk to a provider



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about treatment options for opioid use can do so any days of the week between 8 a.m. and midnight.

Monday through Friday, people can walk in to the DPHBEAM clinic co-located at 1380 Howard St. with our Behavioral Health Access Center and Pharmacy to receive medications, including long-acting injectable buprenorphine, which has been become an increasingly popular option for people who want to stop using fentanyl.

Recently, BEAM reached milestones to be proud of, including;

- More than 10,000 clinical encounters
- More than 9,000 telehealth calls
- More than 4,500 unique clients
- And more than 600 injections of long-acting buprenorphine

Good Neighbor Policy Concludes Public Review Period

On May 29, the City and County of San Francisco concluded the public review and comment period for an updated Citywide Good Neighbor Policy that is on track to go into effect on July 1. The Good Neighbor Policy establishes baseline expectations for City-funded and operated housing, health, shelter, transitional housing, and social service sites operated by DPH, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH), and supportive housing sites funded by the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD). The updated policy is intended to promote safe, clean, and welcoming conditions around covered sites; clarify provider and operator responsibilities; ensure timely responses to community concerns; and create one consistent monitoring and compliance framework across departments. DPH staff and CBO partners will be trained on the updated policy in June.

Food Pharmacy Expands to Hope SF Sunnysdale Wellness Center

The Hope SF Sunnysdale Wellness Center officially launched its new Food Pharmacy last month, extending a proven model of community-centered health support to Sunnysdale residents. Food Pharmacy is a 12-week, clinic-based program first piloted in 2016 across San Francisco Health Network (SFHN) primary care clinics. Designed with equity at its core, the program is a partnership between the Food as Medicine Collaborative and SFHN Primary Care, built on guidance from the Hypertension Equity Workgroup.

Food Pharmacies combine high-quality groceries, group health education, cooking demonstrations, social support, and essential cooking tools. Together, these elements help participants manage chronic conditions, improve overall health, and strengthen relationships with their care teams. With the addition of Sunnysdale, six SFHN clinics now host Food Pharmacies: Curry Senior Center,



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Castro Mission Health Center, Potrero Hill Health Center, Silver Avenue Family Health Center, Southeast Family Health Center, and Hope SF Sunnydale Wellness Center.

The program was developed through collaboration among the Food as Medicine Collaborative, the Hope SF Community Wellness Program, SFHN Primary Care, Mercy Housing, YMCA Mental Health Services, and the Community Health Ambassador Program.

The Sunnydale Food Pharmacy centers Black/African American and Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander residents who are SFHN patients with uncontrolled hypertension. The program officially launched with nine participants attending the first session. The hour-long weekly sessions will continue through August 6, 2026.

Celebrating 10 Years Since Opening the Doors of Building 25

On May 21, 2016, ZSFG officially opened the doors to provide care in the newly built hospital and trauma center in Building 25. Since then, this state-of-the-art facility has provided care for more than one million visits and supported groundbreaking work in patient care, teaching, and innovation. This milestone is a testament to the dedication of the teams who bring Building 25 to life every day. In November 2008, San Francisco voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition A, an \$887.4 million general obligation bond to rebuild ZSFG. As we celebrate 10 years, we thank all of our supporters and look forward to continuing to expand our services and strengthen our impact on the health of all San Franciscans.

Laguna Honda Holds Years of Service Staff Celebration

On Thursday, May 21, Laguna Honda celebrated staff who reached milestone anniversaries with the City ranging from 5 to 45 years, recognizing the dedication and resilience of our workforce. As the first years of service celebration since the pandemic, the event allowed Laguna Honda to honor missed recognitions over the last several years.

All staff receiving years-of-service recognition were invited to attend one of three sessions held throughout the day to accommodate all shifts. Staff greeted honorees with cheers as they picked up their pins, certificates, snacks, and Laguna Honda gear. It was also a time of celebration and connection with their colleagues. Diltar Sidhu, CEO and NHA of Laguna Honda praised staff celebrating 30 or more years of service at a special honoree ceremony during the final 4:00 p.m. session.

This year's recognition reflected total years of service with the City—not just time at DPH or Laguna Honda—ensuring that employees who previously served in other City departments were included. DPH offers its appreciation to all the honorees for their commitment to serving their residents and our San Francisco community. Let's continue to celebrate and uplift the remarkable people who make our mission possible.



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Communicable Disease Branch's Immunization Program and AITC Immunization & Travel Clinic Hosts Annual Immunization Skills Institute (ISI)

On May 14, the Communicable Disease Branch's Immunization Program and AITC Immunization & Travel Clinic hosted the annual Immunization Skills Institute (ISI)—a half day, in-person workshop for medical assistants and nurses who prepare and administer vaccines at clinics in San Francisco. Vaccination is one of the best ways to prevent serious illness, outbreaks, and mortality caused by communicable diseases, and ISI workshops feature a mix of didactics and hands-on skills stations on vaccine administration, storage and handling, and immunization registries. The 21 medical assistants and nurses trained this year are now bringing their immunization skills and knowledge back to patients and staff at the 17 clinics in San Francisco where they work.

PHEPR Holds Annual Medical Response Surge Exercise (MRSE)

On April 29th, PHEPR successfully held the annual Medical Response Surge Exercise (MRSE). MRSE is a functional exercise designed to stress-test San Francisco's healthcare system under extreme conditions. This year's scenario simulated a complex coordinated attack on city venues hosting fans associated with a major special event that generated a massive influx of casualties across the City, pushing medical and health partners to coordinate under pressure in real time. PHEPR was fortunate to receive planning support from the Federal Emergency Management Agency National Exercise Division and local FEMA programs for this exercise.

The exercise brought together a coalition of response partners: DPH Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch (PHEPR), Emergency Medical Services Agency, Bay Area Regional Disaster Medical Health Specialist, several community-based organizations, Department of Emergency Communications 911 Dispatch, and an impressive 10 out of 11 San Francisco hospitals. During the exercise, 331 simulated casualties were presented to hospitals and tracked through the healthcare delivery continuum, providing a data-driven test of patient surge capacity and patient distribution protocols. A full physical Department Operations Center was stood up to manage the coordination with local and regional disaster response agencies. Exercises like MRSE are critical to ensuring San Francisco is ready to respond to fast-moving and dynamic emergencies such as a disastrous mass casualty incident.

Celebrating Biomedical Engineers at ZSFG

ZSFG celebrated Healthcare Technology Management Week by recognizing the vital contributions of its Biomedical Engineering technicians. These technicians work tirelessly behind the scenes to support patient care, maintaining more than 12,000 pieces of equipment throughout the hospital. Their technical expertise, commitment, and rapid turnaround times ensure that critical equipment remains safe, reliable, and available for use around the clock.

The organization acknowledges the professionalism and dedication this team demonstrates every day in supporting patients, clinicians, and hospital operations.

This observance highlights the essential role of the Biomedical Engineering team and expresses



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appreciation for their ongoing service during Healthcare Technology Management Week.

SFPL Bookmobile at ZSFG

At ZSFG's Children's Health Center, clinicians have been expanding efforts to support early literacy and strengthen connections to community resources. Dr. Yasi Vafai and Dr. Neeti Doshi have been leading this work, drawing on personal and professional experience to integrate literacy access into clinical care. Dr. Vafai's commitment is informed in part by formative childhood experiences discovering English through picture books borrowed by a family member. As Dr. Vafai explains, "Libraries shaped my childhood, so helping bring the Bookmobile to our patients feels like coming full circle. Creating a deeper partnership with SFPL felt like a natural step to promote early literacy and expand access to library resources for our patients."

The Children's Health Center has already been helping families sign up for library cards during health visits. Through a new partnership with the San Francisco Public Library, bringing the Bookmobile to campus further enhances access to resources that support language development, school readiness, and long term wellbeing. As Dr. Doshi notes, "By strengthening the connection between healthcare and the public library, we hope to make these resources more accessible and help foster a culture where reading is joyful, valued, and available to everyone."

The Bookmobile made its first visit to the campus last week, providing patients, families, and staff with an additional way to explore books and engage with library services. This collaboration reinforces ongoing work with City partners to expand access and promote holistic care.

The Children's Health Center extends appreciation to the San Francisco Public Library librarians for their partnership and enthusiasm. The Bookmobile will continue visiting every Friday through July, from 3:00–4:30 p.m., offering opportunities to browse, check out books, sign up for cards, and experience the joy of reading.

COVID-19 Update

As of 05/23:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 0.4%.
- Twenty-five percent of SF residents are fully up to date on their COVID vaccinations and have received the updated vaccine.