



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 July 20, 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.

Modernization of Public Health Center in Chinatown

Mayor Daniel Lurie broke ground on a major modernization of the Chinatown Public Health Center (CPHC), a project that will deliver significant clinical improvements and important seismic upgrades at the city's most seismically vulnerable health clinic. The modernization project will be led by DPH and San Francisco Public Works.

The CPHC project will include a full seismic retrofit to strengthen DPH's most seismically vulnerable clinic. It will integrate primary and medical care with mental and behavioral health services, expand dental care, increase the number of exam and consultation rooms, improve accessibility with barrier-free access, upgrade restrooms, make elevator enhancements, and enhance air quality and ventilation. The project will also co-locate CPHC with DPH's Chinatown Child Development Center, improving access to behavioral health services for the community.

Since CPHC closed in June, patients have been receiving healthcare services from their typical providers on the fourth floor of Chinese Hospital nearby. DPH worked closely with community members to provide a seamless transition for patients, ensuring health services were offered in the community during construction.

San Francisco Public Works is managing the retrofit and upgrades at CPHC as well as leading the architectural design. Suffolk Construction has been selected as the contractor. City departments are coordinating closely with residents and merchants to minimize traffic and construction impacts from various projects happening throughout Chinatown, including the health center's renovation.

Funding for the two-and-a-half-year project comes in part from the voter-approved [Healthy, Safe, and Vibrant San Francisco Bond](#), introduced by Mayor London Breed in 2024. More than \$200



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million from the \$390 million bond is dedicated to healthcare infrastructure improvements, including \$71 million dedicated to the full seismic retrofit and renovation of CPHC. An additional \$5 million comes through the state's voter-approved Behavioral Health Services Act. Previous public health general obligation bonds in 2008, 2016, and 2020 have funded the expansion of clinical capacity and improved access to behavioral health care by modernizing patient care spaces and creating greater integration of primary care and behavioral health services throughout DPH's network of hospitals, clinics, and health centers.

CPHC, formerly known as Health Center Number Four, has proudly served San Franciscans at its current location with a focus on the Chinese and Asian American community since 1971, providing culturally competent health care with a focus on low-income and limited or non-English-speaking patients. The health center provides primary medical and behavioral health care services, dental care, podiatry, acupuncture, nutrition services, clinical pharmacist visits, and a nurse's clinic. Owned and operated by DPH, the clinic serves nearly 4,000 patients annually with nearly 20,000 patient visits.

ZSFG Hospital Earns Top Marks On Lown Institute Ranking

Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (ZSFG) has been recognized by the 2026–27 Lown Institute Hospitals Index, one of the nation's leading independent assessments of hospital social responsibility.

This year, ZSFG earned a total of 9 Lown Institute badges for excellence in social responsibility:

- **Ranked #10 in the nation** for Health Equity among more than 2,700 hospitals
- **Earned Top 10 nationally and Top 5 in California** for Health Equity
- **Achieved Top 5 in California** for both Community Benefit and Avoiding Overuse
- **Received Grade A ratings** in Health Equity, Community Benefit, Avoiding Overuse, Pay Equity, and Inclusivity

These achievements reflect the extraordinary dedication of our doctors, nurses, staff, and community partners, whose commitment to equitable, compassionate, and evidence-based care helps improve health outcomes, reduce disparities, and strengthen the communities we are privileged to serve.

About the Lown Institute:

The [Lown Institute](#) is an independent think tank advocating bold ideas for a just and caring system for health, envisioning a healthcare system focused on what's best for people, like hospitals caring for those most in need, patients living without fear of financial distress, and health professionals finding joy in their roles. The [Lown Hospitals Index](#) is a signature project of the Institute.



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Appointment of New Director of Jail Health Services

DPH is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Tyler Mains as its new Director of Jail Health Services. Previously, Dr. Mains served as Chief Medical Officer of Jail Health Services. As Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Mains led clinical operations across the San Francisco County Jails with a strong focus on quality, innovation, and patient-centered care. His accomplishments include expanding access to evidence-based treatment for patients with Opioid Use Disorder through NIH- and SAMHSA-funded initiatives and community partnerships, strengthening infection prevention and response during the COVID-19 pandemic, and helping lead the design of clinical workflows during Jail Health's successful transition to Epic.

Board certified in Internal Medicine and Addiction Medicine, Dr. Mains completed his medical training at Johns Hopkins and UCSF. Before entering medicine, he taught biology in the Baltimore City Public Schools and founded a nationally recognized nonprofit organization dedicated to preparing students from underrepresented backgrounds for careers in healthcare. Throughout his career, he has remained committed to advancing healthcare at the intersection of medicine, equity, education, and the criminal legal system.

As Director, Tyler will oversee all Jail Health operations and continue advancing our shared commitment to delivering high-quality, patient-centered care. We welcome him to his new role.

Ebola Preparedness at ZSFG

Throughout June and early July, a multidisciplinary team at ZSFG has been meeting twice weekly to review our preparedness for the ongoing Ebola outbreak in Central Africa. This work has brought together leaders from Infection Prevention and Control, Emergency Medicine, Critical Care, Nursing, Laboratory Medicine, Facilities, Occupational Health, Supply Chain, and many other teams across the hospital and they have made key decisions regarding personal protective equipment (PPE), patient placement, and care locations. For example, our PPE protocols will provide full body coverage in accordance with public health guidance. ZSFG is also developing training programs and planning a hospital-wide Town Hall to ensure that staff have opportunities to learn about the plans, ask questions, and provide feedback. Further, several important capabilities are already in place. California's public health laboratory system can perform Ebola PCR testing with results available in approximately four hours. UC Davis Medical Center has been designated as our regional referral center and should be ready to receive patients who meet high-risk screening criteria or test positive in the very near future. Meanwhile, our ZSFG Clinical Laboratory team is developing workflows to support diagnostic and point-of-care testing as needed. These efforts reflect the strength of our preparedness infrastructure and our commitment to protecting patients, staff, and the community.

Although the likelihood of encountering an Ebola patient remains low, our responsibility is to be prepared. Thank you to all our teams contributing to this important work.



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Medical Respite Receives National Certification

DPH's Medical Respite program earned certification from the National Institute for Medical Respite Care (NIMREC), a distinction that affirms the program's commitment to nationally recognized standards and high-quality care for individuals experiencing homelessness. DPH completed a rigorous process to demonstrate a high degree of fidelity to nationally recognized principles, standards, and expectations in the field of medical respite care. Our program was certified as providing the highest level of recuperative care services, Comprehensive Clinical Care.

Medical Respite is supportive shelter-based care for people experiencing homelessness who do not require hospitalization, but still need to heal from a medical condition, which would otherwise be exacerbated by an unstable living environment. Staying at Medical Respite allows people experiencing homelessness to continue their recovery and receive post-discharge treatment while obtaining access to necessary medical care, psychosocial services, and other supportive services, including transportation, food, and housing.

Operated in partnership with Community Forward, the program reflects DPH's commitment to delivering coordinated, person-centered care that improves the health outcome for individuals experiencing homelessness. You can learn more about our certification [here](#).

Keeping Care Moving Behind the Scenes at ZSFG

The recent Medline Tracy Distribution Center fire affected supply deliveries throughout ZSFG. When every minute matters, our Materials Management team at ZSFG ensures patient care never misses a beat. Through behind the scenes coordination, responsiveness, and unwavering commitment, the team kept essential operations running smoothly and made sure caregivers had the resources they needed to deliver exceptional patient care. They maintained close communication with Medline and worked around the clock to organize and backfill hundreds of pallets of essential supplies. They also partnered closely with clinical and operational teams to minimize impacts to our campus.

Thanks to their coordination and dedication, crucial supplies remained available. Thank you to our Materials Management team for your dedication and teamwork, and a special acknowledgment to David Lawlor, Director of Materials Management, for his leadership.

Newcomers Health Program Annual Report

In June 2026, the Community Health Equity Promotion Branch's Newcomers Health Program completed its annual report for fiscal year 2025-2026 for the California Department of Public Health Asylum Seeker Health Surveillance and Linkage to Care Program (ASHS). ASHS responded to 101 referrals and was able to complete 95 health screenings and linkages to care for new immigrants and asylum-seekers. Eighty-five newcomers were successfully enrolled in Medi-Cal. Despite the significant barriers posed by federal and state policy changes, Newcomers Health, in



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close collaboration with ZSFG Family Health Center, continues to serve a critical role in connecting new immigrants and asylum-seeker communities to essential healthcare and navigation services.

ZSFG Announces Medical Director for the Age Friendly Emergency Department

ZSFG announced Dr. Theresa Cheng as the Medical Director for the Age Friendly Emergency Department (AFED) at ZSFG. Dr. Theresa Cheng is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine at UCSF, Co-Director of Social Emergency Medicine, and Director of Social Equity for the UCSF Acute Care Innovation Center. Throughout her career, she has been an advocate for vulnerable populations, advancing equitable, compassionate, and patient-centered care through clinical innovation, education, research, and community partnerships. With training in both medicine and law, Dr. Cheng brings a unique perspective to addressing the complex medical, social, and systemic factors that impact health and well-being. Her work has focused on improving care for underserved populations, including people experiencing homelessness, immigrants, and other marginalized communities.

COVID-19 Update

As of 07/15:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 1.8%.
- Twenty-six percent of SF residents are fully up to date on their COVID vaccinations and have received the updated vaccine.