



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 August 3, 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 Encourages Families to Prioritize Vaccines and TB Screenings as New School Year Approaches

DPH is strongly encouraging families to prioritize getting all required vaccinations and—if entering a new school— a tuberculosis (TB) screening as the school year quickly approaches. These actions are essential for protecting students and the community from serious, preventable diseases.

Safe and Effective Vaccines

Vaccines are safe and incredibly effective at protecting children and the community against serious illnesses such as measles, pertussis (whooping cough), chickenpox and polio.

California school and childcare [vaccine requirements](#) are unchanged. Based on their age, students need to receive the following vaccines before the school year starts:

- Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis
- Polio
- Hepatitis B
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella
- Varicella (Chickenpox)

All vaccines recommended by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the American Academy of Pediatrics, including those required for childcare or school, continue to be covered by insurance in California. The vaccines are widely available through healthcare providers and pharmacies.



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TB Screening

Students in San Francisco who are *entering a new school* are required to be screened for TB before attending. This policy has been in place since 2014. Anyone can get TB, but some people are at higher risk than others. The screenings include an assessment of TB risk factors:

- Contact with a person who is sick from active TB at any time during your child's lifetime
- Birth, residence or travel for at least 1 month in regions of the world with higher rates of TB
- Medicines or medical conditions that weaken the immune system.

Students identified with one or more risk factors are required to complete TB symptom review and testing to identify if they have TB prior to school entry. A person can harbor latent TB infection for months or years without symptoms. At this early stage, TB is not infectious, but people can later go on to become sick with active TB disease which is contagious. Early identification of TB while it is still in a latent stage allows children to receive treatment to keep from getting sick with active TB and passing it on to others.

Resources

SFDPH: www.sf.gov/get-vaccines

www.sf.gov/tb-education-and-outreach-public

CDPH: www.shotsforschool.org

My Digital Vaccine Record: <https://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov/>

Personal Duress Devices Coming to DPH Field Teams

DPH is preparing to roll out a new personal safety tool for staff working in the community. The Centurion Anywhere is a small, wearable Bluetooth-enabled personal duress device that pairs with smartphones. If activated during an emergency, it immediately sends an alert—along with the user's real-time GPS location—to local 911 emergency dispatchers, the staff member's managers, and their division's leadership. The system is designed to support staff in situations when calling 911 may not be possible.

Devices will be assigned to:

- Environmental Health Inspectors
- Health at Home staff
- Street Outreach and Street Medicine teams
- Pharmacy medication delivery staff
- Comprehensive Crisis Services
- Teams working in high-risk areas
- Staff who work alone in the community
- Staff who may work with bystanders or individuals with a history of risk behaviors in public or non-traditional care settings



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The decision to select this device was shaped by staff expertise. In March, representatives from multiple DPH field programs participated in vendor demos and reviewed detailed proposals. After reviewing staff feedback, evaluating functionality, reliability, and ease of use, DPH selected Response Technologies as the vendor for the new system.

The contract with Response Technologies has been finalized and the DPH-wide policy on the use of this technology is underway with deployment expected to be completed by the end of the year.

PHD Epidemiologist Selected as Recipient of Jack Spencer Award

PHD epidemiologist Bob Kohn has been selected as the 2026 recipient of the American Sexually Transmitted Disease Association's Jack Spencer Award. The Jack N. Spencer Award recognizes individuals whose extraordinary careers in sexually transmitted diseases prevention and awareness reflect exceptional commitment to program science. This award honors leaders whose dedication to science-based programs, innovation, and service has significantly strengthened the field and advanced the reach and impact of STD prevention and awareness efforts. More information about the award can be found [here](#).

PHD Epidemiologist Awarded the 2026 Andy Lopez Memorial Award by California TB Controllers Association

PHD epidemiologist Laura Romo-Timme was awarded the 2026 Andy Lopez Memorial Award by the California TB Controllers Association (CTCA). This award recognizes an outstanding Allied Health Professional for their contributions to TB control in California. The Andy Lopez Award and Scholarship honors the legacy of Andy Lopez, who dedicated over 20 years to public health in California, with a significant focus on tuberculosis (TB) control. For the last 12 years of his career, he worked closely with local TB programs from the state level, and before that, he spent eight years working in local programs. This award and scholarship provide an opportunity for local health jurisdictions and CTCA to recognize an outstanding Allied Health Professionals. By celebrating professionals who embody Lopez's commitment, the award continues to inspire excellence and innovation in TB prevention and treatment efforts.

Spanish-Language Media Outreach Expands Access to Substance Use Disorder Services

DPH partnered with the Gubbio Project and SAAF to promote awareness of substance use disorder services among Spanish-speaking communities through Spanish-language media outreach. The Univision story reinforced the availability of culturally and linguistically appropriate treatment services while promoting recovery and increasing awareness of behavioral health services.

Featured media coverage: Univision [En Vivo | Pasajero en aeropuerto de San Francisco denuncia discriminación | 6 PM | 07.20.26](#) – Story starts at 5:35 minute mark



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Mosquitos Surveillance Outreach Supports Public Awareness

DPH's Environmental Health Branch conducted proactive mosquito surveillance outreach at Golden Gate Park to educate residents about seasonal monitoring efforts and mosquito-borne disease prevention. The outreach reinforced DPH's ongoing commitment to protecting community health through early detection and public awareness.

Featured media coverage: KRON [San Francisco health officials monitor for invasive mosquitoes](#)

Regional Measles Media Briefing Generates Widespread Coverage

DPH's Population Health division partnered with the Big Cities Health Coalition, Santa Clara Public Health Department, and the Oregon Health Authority to coordinate a media engagement addressing the national rise in measles cases and the importance of vaccination. The regional briefing generated 58 media placements with an estimated 13.6 million audience views, helping amplify consistent public messaging ahead of the back-to-school season and reinforcing vaccination as the most effective protection against measles.

American College of Surgeons Level I Trauma Center Re-Verification Survey at ZSFG Concluded with No Findings

On July 17, the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Level I Trauma Center Re-Verification Survey concluded at ZSFG with outstanding results, where the hospital received no findings following the comprehensive two-day virtual review. Surveyors met with administrative and clinical leaders, toured key clinical areas, reviewed patient cases, and evaluated the Trauma Program's performance improvement activities. They recognized the program's exceptional teamwork, dedication, and commitment to patient care, while highlighting strengths including leadership support, research infrastructure, injury prevention, trauma registry excellence, care for older adults and children, neurosurgery response times, and multidisciplinary prehospital collaboration.

As the City's only Level I Trauma Center, maintaining this designation is essential to ensuring the highest standard of trauma care for the city's most critically injured patients. The successful re-verification reflects the expertise and commitment of the Trauma Team and the many departments that participated in the survey, with special recognition for the leadership of Dr. Susan Ehrich, Dr. Timothy Browder, Dr. Joseph Cuschieri, Juliann Susman, and Dr. Christopher Colwell throughout the process, alongside our Regulatory Team.

ZSFG Hosts Hospital Incident Command System Training as it Continues to Build a Culture of Emergency Preparedness

ZSFG's Hospital Incident Command System (HICS) Training brought together staff from across ZSFG and DPH, UCSF, and both clinical and operational teams for an engaging, hands-on learning experience in July. Participants strengthened their emergency response skills while gaining



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practical familiarity with HICS tools, forms, and real-world scenarios. The session offered a valuable opportunity to build confidence, connect with cross-department partners, and prepare for requirements tied to the Joint Commission, CMS, and NIMS. This training is part of a larger, intentional effort to build a leadership team capable of responding effectively to disasters. We appreciate everyone who attended and helped make these sessions a success.

COVID-19 Update

As of 07/29:

- San Francisco's 7-day rolling average of COVID test positivity is 4.0%.
- Twenty-six percent of SF residents are fully up to date on their COVID vaccinations and have received the updated vaccine.