



## San Francisco Department of Public Health

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Director of Health

City and County of San Francisco  
Mark Farrell  
Mayor

### **Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of May 15, 2018**

*A current overview of issues affecting the state of public health in San Francisco*

<https://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/insideDept/dirRpts/default.asp>

#### **State Update**

#### **Governor Jerry Brown Releases May Revision of State Budget for FY 2018-2019- Health and Human Services**

The May Revision reflects \$8.8 billion in higher state revenues through 2018-19, compared to \$6.1 billion projected in January. The revision, released May 11, also continues to warn that a likely recession and changes at the federal level could impact the state's fiscal landscape, and thus the state needs to take budgetary precautions. Governor Brown is proposing to allocate a portion of the surplus into reserves, growing the Rainy Day Fund to \$13.8 billion.

The surplus will also be used to pay for substantially higher program costs and ongoing commitments the state has made and expanded in recent years, such as Medi-Cal, Cal Grants, childcare, In-Home Supportive Services and foster care reform. Additionally, the May Revision proposes nearly \$4 billion in one-time General Fund spending, focused in three areas including infrastructure, homelessness, and mental health. The overall proposed budget expenditures for health and human services are \$158.7 billion, an increase of \$3 billion from the proposed January budget.

Health-related highlights and impacts to SFDPH from the May revise include:

- Restricting 340b Participation - Maintains the Administration's proposal to prohibit the use of federal 340B Drug Pricing Program reimbursements effective July 1, 2019 – which would take a critical source of savings away from public health care systems and other safety net providers. SFDPH's hospitals and clinics participate in the 340B Drug Pricing Program and receive significant cost savings of \$10 million for maintaining and expanding access to care for San Francisco's Medi-Cal and uninsured residents.
- Supporting Mental Health— The May Revision includes one-time funding to help counties support identification, treatment and services in the mental health system.
  - Repayment of \$254 million plus interest in mandate claims for counties for additional resources for youth with mental illness. The Administration expects



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- counties to use funding for early intervention and prevention mental health services for youth, with an emphasis on teens.
  - One-time \$50 million augmentation for DHCS for counties to target funding for multi-disciplinary teams to support services for homeless persons with mental illness
  - \$55 million one-time General Fund increase to support graduate education for mental health professionals in Health Professional Shortage Areas and Medically Underserved Areas.
  - \$6.7 billion for staff at DHCS to support oversight of county mental health program and review MHSA expenditures
  - Placing the \$2 billion No Place Like Home bond on the November ballot to accelerate the delivery of housing projects to serve the mentally ill.
- Expanded Hepatitis C Treatment Clinical Guidelines – An increase of \$70.4 million (\$21.8 million General Fund) in 2018-19 to authorize treatment for all patients ages 13 and above with Hepatitis C, regardless of liver fibrosis stage or co-morbidity, except for patients with a life expectancy of less than 12 months. Currently, Medi-Cal authorizes treatment for individuals with stage two or above liver fibrosis, or at any stage if they have a qualifying co-morbid condition.

### Local News

#### **San Francisco Department of Public Health informs patients of vendor security incident: unauthorized access of medical record information.**

##### *No evidence that personal information has been used for any purpose*

SFDPH has informed 895 patients of a security incident involving personal information handled by a third-party medical transcription service. The transcriptions covered visits to the San Francisco Health Network, the Health Department's system of hospitals and clinics.

The incident happened at Nuance Communications, a Massachusetts-based company contracted to provide medical transcription services. The information was accessed last year from November 20 to December 9. Notification to patients was delayed until May 11 at the request of the FBI and the U.S. Department of Justice, pending their criminal investigation into the incident. The investigation determined that a former Nuance employee breached Nuance's servers and accessed the personal information of thousands of individuals from several contracted clients, including the San Francisco Department of Public Health. It does not appear that any of the information taken was used or sold for any purpose, and all of the data have been recovered from the former employee.

The information accessed included personal data such as name, date of birth, medical record number, patient number, and information dictated by the provider such as patient condition, assessment, diagnosis, treatment, care plan and date of service.



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The incident did not include information such as Social Security number, Driver's License number or financial account numbers.

The SFHN has sent a letter to all the affected patients, who were seen at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital or Laguna Honda Hospital. The Health Department also has notified the California Department of Public Health and the California Attorney General.

Patients with questions can contact the Health Department's Privacy Office toll free at (855) 729-6040 and reference "Nuance" or #2017-122 in the message.

### **National EMS Week 2018 celebrates first responders and encourages the next generation**

The Emergency Medical Services Agency will celebrate National EMS Week this month with a series of activities for staff and the public. The EMS agency returned to the Health Department in the summer of 2017, and we are delighted to recognize the work of our emergency responders during a week-long series of events from May 20 through May 26.

The local program features 911 Dispatcher Hospitality Day on Tuesday at the Department of Emergency Management, and an EMS Awards Ceremony Wednesday at the Main Library's Koret Auditorium. EMS Day at Civic Center Plaza on Wednesday May 23 from 11am to 2pm is a fan favorite, with all types of ambulance rigs on display for the public to explore and enjoy. A special event at Galileo Academy of Science and Technology on Friday brings EMS staff and leaders to the high school to encourage and inspire future paramedics and EMTs

National EMS Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's "front line."

"Stronger Together" is the theme of this year's National EMS Week. The EMS Strong campaign seeks to celebrate, unify and inspire the men and women of our nation's emergency medical services. Created by the American College of Emergency Physicians in partnership with the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, EMS Strong honors the dedication of EMS practitioners nationwide.

### **Viva PrEP Campaign launches to increase uptake in the Latino community**

With funding from the San Francisco Department of Public Health and Getting to Zero Initiative, Instituto Familiar de la Raza (IFR), a nonprofit organization providing health and wellness services to San Francisco's Latino community, launched the Viva PrEP campaign on May 7. The new sexual health campaign is one of the first PrEP awareness campaigns to specifically target the Latino



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community. Co-developed by IFR frontline workers with input from the Latino community, Viva PrEP's goal is to increase awareness of PrEP as an effective HIV prevention tool in the broader Latino community, as well as to increase PrEP use among both Latino men who have sex with men, and transgender women.

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is a safe and effective medication that reduces the risk of contracting HIV by more than 90 percent. Black and Latino men and transgender women are most at risk of contracting HIV, yet they are least likely to know about PrEP; and some of those who are familiar with PrEP often have misconceptions about it. The percentage of Latinos using PrEP remains low due to various barriers. Viva PrEP embraces the language and culture of the Latino community as a means of dispelling institutional barriers.

Viva PrEP is critical, not only because Latinos are disproportionately impacted by HIV, but because it seeks to reach Latinos who have been historically left out of the conversation. Viva PrEP is composed of culturally relevant and honest language aimed at capturing people's attention and provoking conversation. The images reflect specific groups including transgender women, queer Latino men, Latinos regardless of sexual orientation, and the whole family.

### **DPH Behavioral Health program wins national achievement award**

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has chosen the City and County of San Francisco to receive a 2018 Achievement Award for its "Population-focused: Mental Health Promotion and Early Intervention program" in the category of health. NACo awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that enhance services for residents.

The population-focused program is among the services delivered by the Health Department under the Mental Health Services Act. These programs partner with and provide services to underserved and socially excluded communities by honoring their histories, experiences and cultural practices toward wellness. The Population-focused programs stand on five key service modalities: outreach and engagement; screening and assessment; wellness promotion; individual/group therapeutic services; and service linkage.

### **DPH in the News**

**San Francisco Chronicle. May 11, 2018, Data breach affects nearly 900 patients from two San Francisco hospitals**

[https://www.sfchronicle.com/business/article/Data-breach-affects-900-patients-from-two-San-12908583.php?src=hp\\_totn](https://www.sfchronicle.com/business/article/Data-breach-affects-900-patients-from-two-San-12908583.php?src=hp_totn)

**NBC Bay Area + Los Angeles, May 12, 2018**

**SF Public Health Officials Inform 895 Patients About Data Breach**



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<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/SF-Public-Health-Officials-Inform-895-Patients-About-Data-Breach-482431091.html>

<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/california/SF-Public-Health-Officials-Inform-895-Patients-About-Data-Breach-482431091.html>

**Buzzfeed, May 9 2018, Drug use has exploded into open view in San Francisco. City officials are calling it a crisis**

[https://www.buzzfeed.com/jimdalyrmypleii/public-drug-use-san-francisco?utm\\_term=.vtmaqEkJ3#.jaeBG8qQX](https://www.buzzfeed.com/jimdalyrmypleii/public-drug-use-san-francisco?utm_term=.vtmaqEkJ3#.jaeBG8qQX)

**San Francisco Chronicle, May 8 2019, Those needles littering the street? The city gave them out**

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/matier-ross/article/Those-needles-littering-the-streets-The-city-12898656.php>

**The Body, May 7 2018, PrEP disconnect: what's missing from PrEP messaging?**

<http://www.thebody.com/content/81010/prep-disconnect-whats-missing-from-prep-messaging.html>

**New York Times, May 3 2018, De Blasio moves to bring safe injection sites to New York City**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/03/nyregion/nyc-safe-injection-sites-heroin.html>

**Fox News, Apr 30 2018, San Francisco announces needle cleanup team amid crackdown on street littering**

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2018/05/01/san-francisco-announces-needle-cleanup-team-amid-crackdown-on-street-littering.html>

**The Washington Post, Apr 30 2018, Supervised injection facilities are illegal in the United States**

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-health-202/2018/04/30/the-health-202-supervised-injection-facilities-are-illegal-in-the-united-states-these-cities-want-to-open-them-anyway/5ae5dbc630fb043711926901/?utm\\_term=.99aa99b0182b](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-health-202/2018/04/30/the-health-202-supervised-injection-facilities-are-illegal-in-the-united-states-these-cities-want-to-open-them-anyway/5ae5dbc630fb043711926901/?utm_term=.99aa99b0182b)

**San Francisco Examiner, Apr 24 2018, As Breed pushes treatment program, board divided on conservatorships to treat chronically homeless**

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/breed-pushes-treatment-program-board-divided-conservatorships-treat-chronically-homeless/>