



## San Francisco Department of Public Health

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Director of Health

City and County of San Francisco  
London N. Breed  
Mayor

# Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of August 18, 2020

*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>

### Mayor London Breed details proposed City budget for COVID-19

On August 11, Mayor London N. Breed presented her budget proposal to continue the City's ongoing response to COVID-19 in the next fiscal year. The COVID-19 budget investments are part of the Mayor's two year budget proposal, which Mayor Breed announced on Friday, July 31, and which balances a \$1.5 billion deficit with a responsible use of reserves, preserving jobs and with minimal impact to City services.

In total, Mayor Breed's proposed budget allocates \$446.1 million to ensure the City has the financial resources to meet the citywide priorities set forth by the COVID-19 Command Center, the centralized emergency operations center coordinating the response across City departments. The Mayor's budget assumes the City's General Fund will support \$93 million of that total amount, and that the remaining amount will be covered through a combination of FEMA reimbursement, state grants, and funding from the CARES Act. Additionally, the \$446.1 million in expenditures for COVID-19 are budgeted in only FY 2020-21 in the Mayor's proposed budget. If there is a significant surge in cases or the pandemic requires the current level of response after July 2021, additional funding will be required.

Mayor Breed's proposed budget includes funding to ensure the City is able to continue its comprehensive, data-driven, and public health-focused response to the ongoing health threats and economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding will be directed to four main categories: health operations; housing and shelter programs; food security and human services; and emergency communications and operations.

#### Health Operations

In total, the Mayor's budget allocates \$184.9 million for health operations. The Mayor's budget ensures there is adequate funding for COVID-19 testing, personal protective equipment, expanded capacity at hospitals and skilled nursing facilities, outbreak management, and contact tracing, among other expenses. The most significant health expense is testing at \$55.9 million, followed by citywide personal protective equipment at \$44.2 million. The health operations category also includes \$12.7



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million for community outreach and engagement in priority neighborhoods, congregate settings, and communities at high risk of exposure.

### Housing and Shelter Programs

The proposed budget includes investments to address the needs of San Francisco's unsheltered residents in the COVID-19 environment with shelter, food, and medical care. The budget provides \$182.9 million for housing and shelter programs, including hotel rooms for vulnerable individuals without access to housing to safely shelter-in-place or recover from COVID-19.

### Food Security and Human Services

Throughout COVID-19, addressing food insecurity has remained one of Mayor Breed's and the City's top priorities. The Mayor's proposed budget includes \$45.8 million in new expenditures for food programs. The budget also includes \$16 million to continue the City's expansion of the Pit Stop program.

### Emergency Communications and Operations

In total, the Mayor's proposed budget allocates \$16.5 million for emergency communications and operations. The proposed budget includes \$12.9 million for staffing and operations at the City's COVID Command Center, including \$3.6 million in funding for multi-lingual communications, outreach, and education during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Budget Timeline

Mayor Breed's proposed budget is now before the Budget and Finance Committee, after which it will go before the full Board of Supervisors. Following approval by the Board of Supervisors, the budget for FY 2020-21 and 2021-22 will go to the Mayor for her signature and final adoption by October 1, 2020.

## **San Francisco COVID-19 data affected by statewide delays; continuing pause on reopening**

Today, there are over 6,900 San Francisco residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19. And, sadly, a total of 61 San Franciscans have died. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) sends our condolences to their loved ones.

The key indicators of COVID-19 activity in San Francisco show that a surge of cases and hospitalizations is under way, and it must be brought under control before reopening can continue. As a result, the City is extending the pause on the reopening that began on June 29.

On August 6, the City and County of San Francisco announced local data reporting impacts due to system delays at the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) electronic disease reporting system, known as the California Reportable Disease Information Exchange or CalREDIE. The CDPH recently discovered an underreporting of COVID-19 tests and cases due to technology issues with this electronic laboratory reporting system which transfers testing data and case reports to counties across the state.



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The CDPH is directing all laboratories to report their positive results directly to county health departments until this issue is resolved. San Francisco had already issued a Health Order in March directing all laboratories conducting COVID-19 diagnostic tests on San Francisco residents or in San Francisco to report COVID-19 test results – positive, negative and inconclusive – to the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH).

The City will pause providing updated data on testing, cases, contact tracing metrics and associated Key Public Health Indicators until the statewide issue is resolved. While the Key Public Health Indicators will be paused, all data and dashboards on San Francisco's COVID-19 Data Tracker will continue to update. The data tracker will note that tests and cases are currently underreported. At this time, San Francisco officials cannot estimate a timeframe for resumption.

It is important to note that these data issues are interrupting the transmission of information to health departments, not to patients. People tested for COVID-19 are continuing to receive their laboratory results. Those who are informed that they are positive for COVID-19 should consult their healthcare provider, isolate and alert their close contacts that they have been exposed. Both the individual and close contacts should quarantine in accordance with the recently updated SFDPH directives on Isolation and Quarantine.

It is more important than ever that residents do everything they can to slow the transmission of the virus, by:

- Wearing face coverings
- Washing hands frequently
- Avoiding crowds
- Staying home as much as possible
- Maintaining at least 6 feet of distance from others when you leave the house

### **Mayor London Breed Announces Plan to Create Behavioral Health Street Crisis Response Team**

On August 11, Mayor London N. Breed announced a plan to create a Street Crisis Response Team pilot program, which would begin the effort to fundamentally change the way San Francisco responds to 911 and 311 calls regarding behavioral health emergencies, involving mental health and substance use. The goal for this new team is to provide an appropriate non-law enforcement response to behavioral health emergencies in San Francisco and divert individuals in crisis away from emergency rooms and criminal justice settings into behavioral health treatment facilities.



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The Street Crisis Response Team pilot program is part of the first phase of implementation of Mental Health SF, the City's strategic framework for improving the behavioral health response to people experiencing homelessness. In addition to funding the Street Crisis Response Team, Mayor Breed's proposed budget includes funding to establish an Office of Coordinated Care within the Department of Public Health, increasing behavioral health bed capacity to reduce wait times to access treatment beds, and expanding service hours at the Behavioral Health Access Center.

The Street Crisis Response Team will be a collaboration between the San Francisco Department of Public Health and the San Francisco Fire Department and will provide appropriate clinical interventions and care coordination for people who experience behavioral health crises on the streets of San Francisco. Each team will include a community paramedic from the Fire Department, and a behavioral health clinician and behavioral health peer from the Department of Public Health. The team will be dispatched to address calls for service by both the 911 and 311 call centers. In addition, individuals can be connected to additional services and would be supported by DPH to engage in these services and to ensure follow-up care is coordinated.

Through pairing behavioral health specialists and medical professionals, the Street Crisis Response Team can begin to respond to some of the calls to which the San Francisco Police Department would otherwise respond. These include suicide or self-harm calls and calls for assistance to people who are presenting as disoriented, or who have other symptoms of intoxication or psychosis.

The service model for the Street Crisis Response Team is unique in the incorporation of peer support workers with lived experience of homelessness, mental illness, and/or substance use disorder. Peer support workers are people who have been successful in the recovery process and are skilled to help others experiencing similar situations. This team will coordinate with the Department of Public Health's Street Medicine team, the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing's Homeless Outreach Team, and the Fire Department's EMS-6 team.

### **San Francisco encourages people to take protective actions to stay safe during heat advisories**

On August 15, the National Weather Service (NWS) issued a Heat Advisory for San Francisco with temperatures forecast in the upper 80s Friday and low to mid 80s on Saturday.

Even during heat waves, we must continue to protect ourselves and our community from COVID-19. The Department of Public Health (DPH), Department of Emergency Management, and other City agencies are encouraging people to stay cool and hydrated, while continuing COVID-19 health and safety precautions. The public is encouraged to stay home when possible. If it feels too warm indoors, seek cooler temperatures in shaded, outdoor areas while keeping at least six feet away from people not in your household.



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In response to the elevated temperature, DPH's Street Medicine Team and Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing's Homeless Outreach Team provided guidance on how to stay safe during extreme heat, distributing bottled water, and conducted wellness checks with vulnerable populations, including people who are experiencing homelessness. City agencies continue closely monitoring temperatures and are asking residents to frequently check on their family, friends and neighbors if they know they have health concerns. In addition to sharing heat safety tips, City officials are reminding the public that window, water and pet safety are equally as important.

### COVID-19 Safety During Elevated Temperatures

- Always wear a face covering when outside if you are not eating and drinking to protect yourself and others.
- Avoid gathering with people from outside your household
- Avoid sharing food or drinks, or touching shared objects

### Heat Safety

- Stay cool
  - Stay out of the sun and keep window blinds and shades closed
  - Limit outdoor activities, wear light-colored clothing
  - Avoid strenuous activity
- Stay hydrated
  - Drink enough water and avoid alcoholic and caffeinated beverages, which can promote dehydration
- Stay connected
  - Call to check on neighbors, friends, and relatives, especially older adults and those with disabilities and access and functional needs
  - Sign up for ALERTSF by texting your zip code to 888-777 to stay informed and receive emergency alerts

### Window Safety

- Make sure there are appropriate safeguards when there is an open window to keep toddlers and small children safe
- Fly screens are not enough to prevent window fall

### Water Safety

- Make sure there is close supervision when there are factors that influence drowning risks around you, especially for toddlers

## **Interns graduate from Chinatown Public Health Center Nutrition Services' Teen HEAL internship program**

On August 14, Chinatown Public Health Center (CPHC) Nutrition Services, in partnership with Chinatown YMCA, sponsored the 2019-2020 Teen Healthy Eating & Active Living (HEAL) virtual graduation and 2020-2021 new intern induction ceremony. The Teen HEAL Internship is a program



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designed to empower teens to improve their nutritional and physical well-beings as well as becoming ambassadors in teaching their peers how to live healthy lives. High school interns received biweekly trainings from October 2019 to June 2020 and sponsored Teen HEAL clubs in their respective high schools to impact their peers' eating habits. The interns completed a 54-page 2019-2020 Teen HEAL Yearbook with their champion stories reflecting their self-growth throughout their time with Teen HEAL and recipes that they modified to display both their understanding of making healthy substitutes and creativity with different flavors, along with a reflection of the self-growth they have experienced as a result of the program.

During the ceremony, 13 interns graduated from the program and 15 new interns were inducted. The CPHC leadership team, along with Dr. Shelley Fung-Yeung, UCSF Clinical associate professor, Dr. Joseph Woo, Asian American Medical Group President, and celebrity chef Martin Yan, congratulated the interns on their achievements, encouraged them to continue to eat right and practice what they have learned in college, and encourage them to continue to persevere despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

### DPH in the News

AP, Aug 16 2020, Coronavirus hasn't devastated the homeless as many feared  
<https://www.startribune.com/coronavirus-hasn-t-devastated-the-homeless-as-many-feared/572131512/>

KTVU, Aug 16 2020, SF Supervisors committee examines school district's fall plan as distance learning resumes Monday  
<https://www.ktvu.com/news/sf-supervisors-committee-examines-school-districts-fall-plan-as-distance-learning-resumes-monday>

KTVU, Aug 16 2020, San Francisco's opioid crisis explodes amid COVID-19 pandemic  
<https://www.ktvu.com/news/san-franciscos-opioid-crisis-exploding-amid-covid-19-pandemic>

ABC, Aug 14 2020, First COVID-19 vaccine trial volunteers describe experience, symptoms  
<https://abc11.com/health/covid-19-vaccine-trial-volunteers-describe-experience-symptoms/6370494/>

ABC, Aug 13 2020, Here's what we know about Bay Area's 1<sup>st</sup> coronavirus vaccine trial  
<https://abc7news.com/health/exclusive-bay-areas-1st-covid-19-vaccine-trial-to-start-soon/6368105/>

Mercury News, Aug 13 2020, Bay Area volunteers can now sign up for large coronavirus vaccine trials  
<https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/08/13/bay-area-volunteers-can-now-sign-up-for-large-coronavirus-vaccine-trials/>



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SF Examiner, Aug 11 2020, Street Crisis Response Team' to response to behavioral health calls  
<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/street-crisis-response-team-to-respond-to-behavioral-health-calls/>

WIRED, Aug 11 2020, San Francisco was uniquely prepared for COVID-19  
<https://www.wired.com/story/san-francisco-uniquely-prepared-covid-19/>

Mission Local, Aug 10 2020, It's taking a week for contact tracers to reach COVID-19 patients. This 'negates the point of contact tracing.'  
<https://missionlocal.org/2020/08/covid-san-francisco-contact-tracing/>

WA Examiner, Aug 9 2020, Virus response hampered by ignorance about outbreak origins  
<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/virus-response-hampered-by-ignorance-about-outbreak-origins>

CNBC, Aug 8 2020, How San Francisco succeeded more than other U.S. cities in fighting the coronavirus  
<https://www.cNBC.com/2020/08/08/how-san-francisco-beat-other-us-cities-in-fighting-the-coronavirus.html>

SF Chronicle, Aug 7 2020, Defund the police? Debate rages at SF General Hospital over use of sheriff's deputies  
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/health/article/Defund-the-police-Debate-rages-at-SF-General-15465734.php#photo-19780296>

Mission Local, Aug 6 2020, With COVID-19 cases at a high alert level, blocking off Valencia Street went forward and, some say, became a street fair  
<https://missionlocal.org/2020/08/with-covid-19-cases-at-a-high-alert-level-blocking-off-valencia-street-went-forward-and-some-say-became-a-street-fair/>

WIRED, Aug 6 2020, The US is disastrously behind in COVID-19 testing. Again.  
<https://www.wired.com/story/the-us-is-disastrously-behind-in-covid-19-testing-again/>

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<https://sfbayca.com/2020/08/05/covid-19-update-state-data-issue-leads-to-case-undercount-contra-costa-records-27-deaths-in-eight-days-san-mateo-county-gets-tough-with-mask-fines/>

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