



San Francisco Department of Public Health

Grant Colfax, MD
Director of Health

City and County of San Francisco
London N. Breed
Mayor

September 21, 2022

Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, California 94102

Via email to: angela.calvillo@sfgov.org

Dear Ms. Calvillo-

On August 1, 2022, I, in my role as Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco, declared a local health emergency in the City and County of San Francisco ("San Francisco"). I issued the emergency declaration to address an imminent and proximate threat to the public health due to the introduction of MPX ("m-pox", previously referred to as monkeypox) into the community associated with the current global MPX outbreak. A copy of the local health emergency declaration is attached to this letter. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors ratified the local health emergency under Section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code at a Special Board of Supervisors Meeting on August 8, 2022. The Board of Supervisors reviewed and renewed the local health emergency most recently at its September 13, 2022, meeting. Most of the factors and considerations outlined in the original emergency declaration are still in existence, although there have been changes to vaccine availability and method of administration and improvements in testing for MPX, as outlined below.

San Francisco has been one of the hot spots in the United States regarding MPX infections. We have continued to receive doses of the Jynneos vaccine to help protect the most at-risk members of our community. That vaccine is provided in a two-dose series, and this month we have been able to administer the vaccine via the new vaccine administration method, using one-fifth of the prior dose for an intradermal injection for most patients. This protocol allows us to use the same amount of the Jynneos vaccine for more vaccinations. And the demand for first and second doses of the vaccine has continued to decrease to some extent in recent weeks, but there is still interest in members of the community being vaccinated.

Although the availability of testing for MPX in San Francisco has increased, we still believe that not every case is identified by testing. And we have continued to see a rise in the total number of infected people, although the numbers of infections have substantially decreased since the start of the current outbreak. It is my hope that our efforts, coupled with extensive action by community groups and precautionary steps taken by members of the community who are most at risk, will maintain this decrease in infections. But it is too soon to know for sure, especially in light of the busy street festival schedule in September and early October here in San Francisco.



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And it remains the case that despite these improvements regarding vaccination and testing, there are still infections occurring via community spread on a weekly basis in San Francisco. And our upcoming social gatherings may continue to pose opportunities for infection among impacted communities. As outlined in the emergency declaration, the MPX outbreak in San Francisco continues to cause substantial health impacts on San Francisco residents, with some cases resulting in serious medical issues, including, but not limited to, severe pain, difficulty eating, and the potential for scarring of the skin. And we still face an ongoing need to educate people about the risks of MPX, work with communities who are traditionally under-represented in the receipt of health care, administer as many vaccinations as possible, obtain additional doses of the vaccine, facilitate testing and treatment, and otherwise address the current outbreak. For these reasons, I have determined that, from a public health perspective, it remains in the best interest of San Francisco to continue the declaration of the local health emergency at least for another 30 days.

Under state law, the local health emergency must be reviewed and renewed every 30 days by the Board of Supervisors, or else it will expire. For the reasons listed above, I respectfully request that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors continue to ratify the declaration of a local health emergency for the next 30 days.

I will provide another update in the next 30 days to address the state of the outbreak and whether the declaration of a local health emergency continues to be needed.

Thank you for your ongoing support and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Philip".

Susan Philip, MD MPH
Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco

cc: Grant Colfax, MD, Director of Health

Attachment – August 1, 2022 local health emergency declaration



City and County of San Francisco Department of Public Health

DECLARATION OF LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO REGARDING THE OUTBREAK OF THE MONKEYPOX VIRUS

WHEREAS, Section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code authorizes the Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco (the “Health Officer”) to declare a local health emergency in the City and County of San Francisco (“San Francisco”) whenever the Health Officer reasonably determines that there is an imminent and proximate threat to the public health due to the introduction of any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease; and

WHEREAS, Since early May 2022, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) has received reports of cases of monkeypox in countries where the disease was not previously endemic, marking the first time that many monkeypox cases and outbreaks have been reported concurrently in widely disparate geographical areas throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, On June 3, 2022, the San Francisco Department of Public Health (“DPH”) reported the first known probable case of monkeypox in a San Francisco resident, a number that has since increased to 305 probable and confirmed cases in San Francisco residents as of July 29, 2022, indicating ongoing community spread of the monkeypox virus; and

WHEREAS, DPH has been closely monitoring the appearance and spread of monkeypox in San Francisco, making it a high public health priority and devoting substantial resources to increasing testing and vaccination capacity, disseminating information, joining the Mayor of San Francisco and other elected officials in advocating for increased vaccine supply from the federal and state governments, and partnering with healthcare providers, non-profit organizations, the LGBTQ+ and community members to educate residents and to reduce the impact of the monkeypox outbreak in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, On July 19, 2022, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution urging the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Health and Human Services to accelerate the purchasing and distribution of monkeypox vaccines, prioritize vaccine access for populations at the highest risk of contracting the virus, and eliminate administrative barriers to treatment in light of the growing outbreak; and

WHEREAS, On July 23, 2022, the WHO Director-General declared the escalating global monkeypox outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC); and

WHEREAS, The monkeypox outbreak in San Francisco is causing substantial health impacts on San Francisco residents, with some cases resulting in serious medical issues, including, but not limited to, severe pain, difficulty eating, and the potential for scarring of the skin; and

WHEREAS, Although anyone who gets infected can have a serious case, people at higher risk for a more serious outcome associated with monkeypox infection include, but are not limited to, people whose immune system is not as strong because of a disease, an infection, or medications, people with a history of eczema or other skin conditions, children under the age of eight, and people who are pregnant; and



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WHEREAS, The Jynneos vaccine (a smallpox vaccine) is being used for the prevention of disease, including after exposure to monkeypox (known as Post Exposure Prophylaxis or PEP), but the vaccine is currently in very limited supply and only available for allocation to San Francisco by the federal government through the State of California; and

WHEREAS, The number of actual or suspected monkeypox cases in San Francisco places San Francisco at the highest rate of infection per capita (along with Los Angeles) in California and the second highest in the United States, meaning that San Francisco needs additional vaccine allocations as soon as possible to address the risk here; and

WHEREAS, Due to global supply constraints, the federal government and State of California are not yet allocating vaccine doses to San Francisco at sufficient levels to immunize San Francisco residents who would benefit from vaccination; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the importance of the vaccine, there are clinical treatments that health providers can use for serious cases of monkeypox, but those treatments also are in short supply and not as available in San Francisco as necessary, in part due to regulatory hurdles; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that DPH have all tools available to augment outreach and, as appropriate, provide treatment to all San Francisco residents who are potentially impacted by monkeypox, including those who have historically had limited or restricted access to healthcare and health education, to help residents protect themselves and others against infection by monkeypox and manage monkeypox infection if it occurs; and

WHEREAS, The monkeypox outbreak, in addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, highlights the need for everyone in San Francisco to be aware of communicable diseases, including ways to manage risk, prevent disease transmission and serious disease, and access diagnostic care and treatment; and

WHEREAS, The Health Officer, DPH, and the City value all people affected by the monkeypox outbreak, and especially gay and bisexual men who have sex with men and other LGBTQ+ residents of San Francisco, who have so far borne a disproportionate burden of the outbreak and historically faced discrimination and disparate treatment related to the provision of healthcare in general and to infectious diseases in particular; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco has a rich tradition of social and cultural activities—including, but not limited to, street fairs, nightlife, and celebrations of the LGBTQ+ community—that are an integral part of the identity of San Francisco, monkeypox is not confined to those activities and communities and cannot be contained simply by telling people not to participate in those activities, and those activities and the communities that host them must not be stigmatized; and

WHEREAS, The Health Officer finds that based on the facts and circumstances described above there is an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of the monkeypox virus in San Francisco necessitating the declaration of a local health emergency; and



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WHEREAS, Declaring a local health emergency will assist DPH and other departments in continuing to prioritize San Francisco's public health response to the outbreak, including, but not limited to, more efficiently mobilizing resources, and furthering its work with the community to help ensure access to monkeypox education, vaccines, diagnostic care, treatment, and advocacy for all residents who could benefit; and

WHEREAS, By declaring a local health emergency, the Health Officer activates the provisions of Section 101085 of the California Health and Safety Code, Section 8659 of the California Government Code, and as otherwise provided for by law; and

WHEREAS, Under Section 101080 of the Health and Safety Code, a local health emergency declared by the Health Officer may remain in effect for up to seven days but it can continue beyond that period if the Board of Supervisors ratifies the declaration; and

WHEREAS, The Health Officer expects that the emergency relating to monkeypox will persist well beyond seven days and respectfully requests that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors timely ratify this local health emergency declaration.

NOW, THEREFORE, Under Section 101080 of the Health and Safety Code, the Health Officer declares that a local health emergency exists in San Francisco due to the monkeypox virus and that the local health emergency continue beyond August 8, 2022 provided that the Board of Supervisors ratifies the local health emergency, and that this declaration stay in effect until the Board of Supervisors, in consultation with the Health Officer and DPH, proclaims the local health emergency has terminated.

Dated: August 1, 2022

Issued by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Philip", written over a horizontal line.

Susan Philip, MD, MPH
Health Officer of the
City and County of San Francisco