August 20, 2021

Dear Chief Probation Officer Miller-

As the Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco, I am writing to send you notice of the new requirements related to the Health Officer’s memorandum and letter order (the “Letter Order”) regarding testing for the virus that causes COVID-19 at the San Francisco Juvenile Justice Center Juvenile Hall (“Juvenile Hall”). The Letter Order was issued today, and a copy of it accompanies this letter.

Pursuant to Section 1 of the Letter Order, the Testing cadence for Personnel and Visitors at Juvenile Hall is to be once a week for people who are there at least one time a week (and before or at the time of the visit for people who are there less than one time a week), and Testing is required for everyone (including Personnel and Visitors, regardless of vaccination status) going into Juvenile Hall. These designations of the cadence and people who must be tested go into effect at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, August 27, 2021.

In addition, here is some additional Testing-related information pursuant to the Letter Order:

1. It is a requirement of Testing under the Letter Order that any positive Test result be immediately communicated to Juvenile Probation. For City employees, positive results must immediately be shared with the Department of Human Resources through a secure, confidential method in order for City protocols regarding positive employees to be followed. You may also work with the Department of Public Health (“DPH”) to assist with or consult on case investigation and contact tracing to protect Personnel, Visitors, and the minors who reside at Juvenile Hall.
2. We understand that San Francisco Unified School District ("SFUSD") has an arrangement with its own Personnel to be Tested on a weekly basis by its testing vendor, Color. If Juvenile Probation wishes to allow this, I agree that SFUSD may coordinate with Juvenile Probation to use its vendor to meet the requirements of the Letter Order and as outlined in this letter. SFUSD is not required to share all testing results with Juvenile Probation so long as it confirms that all its Personnel who work at Juvenile Hall are Tested on weekly basis and that all positive Test results will be immediately communicated to Juvenile Probation.

3. For people like SFUSD Personnel who are Tested in other ways, Juvenile Probation must ensure that each person provides a weekly attestation under penalty of perjury that they were Tested that week and that they did not receive a positive Test result. By way of example, Juvenile Probation could have a binder at the entry to Juvenile Hall where that person could sign a line on the page for that week (or a line on a page that is individual to them).

4. For clarity, the Order requires Juvenile Probation and any other entity or department that has Personnel who work at Juvenile Hall to ensure that Testing occurs as required by the Letter Order. The DPH Testing Branch can provide support for offering ideas for that Testing, whether through an offer of a specific type of Testing at a DPH facility like Laguna Honda Hospital, by providing contact information for vendors who can perform Testing, or by helping that department enroll in the California Rapid Antigen Program. The California Rapid Antigen Program provides no-cost antigen test kits, training, and reporting that comply with the requirements of the Letter Order. That program can be used to allow your Personnel to self-test when they arrive at Juvenile Hall, with results ready in around 15 minutes. The State of California offers additional support for that program, including a portal to log results and follow-up PCR testing for any positive antigen test. Those tests can/should be performed by the department or entity personnel and not by DPH, and they do not need to be performed by medical professionals. Juvenile Probation or any other entity or department can contact the Testing Branch via email at Covid-RapidTesting@sfdph.org.

5. Note that vaccination status ascertainment is not required by the Letter Order at this time but is required at Juvenile Hall under both the July 26, 2021 State Public Health Officer Order referenced in the Letter Order as well as by Section 6(a) of Health Officer Order No. C19-07 (which applies to High-Risk Settings).
Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

As always, thank you for your work at Juvenile Hall.

Sincerely,

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

cc:    Grant Colfax, MD, Director of Health
       Julie Van Nostern, Chief Attorney, Health & Human Services, City Attorney’s Office
       T. Michael Yuen, Chief Executive Officer, San Francisco Superior Court
       Tamera Wong, Sr. Deputy General Counsel, San Francisco Unified School District