



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