



# Newsletter

May 2022

## City Updates

### Bay Area Health Officers Urge Public to Take Precautions as COVID Levels Rise

Twelve Bay Area health officers are stressing the importance of taking safety precautions, including continued masking indoors, as the region experiences a new swell of COVID cases and hospitalizations.

The Bay Area now has California's highest COVID infection rates. The current wave is fueled by highly contagious Omicron subvariants. Bay Area counties are seeing increases in reported cases, levels of virus in sewer sheds, and hospitalizations. Actual case rates are higher than those reported because of widespread use of home tests. Read below on how to stay COVID Ready.

### Staying COVID Ready

As the COVID-19 virus continues to change, the City and the Department of Public Health are urging San Franciscans to be "COVID Ready" as we move forward. Visit [DHR's COVID-19 webpage](#) for information on workplace safety.

Here's how you can be **COVID Ready**:

1. **Most importantly:** stay up to date on your COVID-19 vaccinations (vaccination plus booster, if eligible). This is your first layer of defense against the virus, preventing serious illness and hospitalization. For more information about drop-in sites for vaccines and boosters [click here](#).
2. Keep rapid COVID-19 test kits on hand. There are options to receive free test kits from the federal program, through health systems and community organizations, or be reimbursed by insurance. For more information about at-home rapid test reimbursement [click here](#).
3. Keep masks handy: Masks are no longer required in most public indoor settings but continue to be **strongly** recommended. You must wear a mask wherever a business or agency chooses to require it. Masks are not required on public transit but are encouraged. People may choose to continue to wear masks, and respect the choices others make for their health. N95s/KN95s or double mask, cloth over surgical, are best. For more information on masking guidance [click here](#).
4. Stay informed. Follow COVID news updates and health guidance through reliable and trusted sources of information, such as your local health department (SFDPH) and other [government websites](#).

# Bayview Celebrates the Return of Sunday Streets on May 22, 2022

The event will showcase a new route that spreads from **Oakdale Avenue at 3rd Street** onto Lane Street, with extension onto **Revere Avenue**, and **Underwood Avenue** onto Keith Street, at **3rd Street Bay View Park** and **Martin Luther King Jr. Pool**. To learn more click [here](#).

If you are interested in volunteering, [register here](#)





## Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AANHPI)

This May, during **Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AANHPI)**, we recognize the history and celebrate the achievements of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPIs) who have contributed to our communities.

### [Learn More:](#)

In honor of AANHPI Heritage Month, local artist [Mel Vera Cruz](#) worked in partnership with the San Francisco Public Library (SFPL) to produce the beautiful art piece displayed above. This painting features a bouquet of flowers that have symbolic ties to AANHPI cultures including chrysanthemums, cherry blossoms and others, symbolizing rejuvenation, resilience and vitality. The art will be exhibited throughout the month of May on the 3rd Floor of the Main Library.

SFPL also presents "Weaving Stories," a celebration of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. There will be virtual and in-person programs throughout the month. [Click here for information](#) on events hosted by the San Francisco Public Library in honor of AANHPI Heritage Month.

Also [explore parks](#) throughout San Francisco, which are named after prominent AAPI people or hold significance in the AAPI community.

## Have a Reimbursement Expense?

All City employee reimbursements must be approved by **June 29th at 5 p.m.** otherwise employees will need to resubmit after July 5th. City employees rely on quick reimbursement for the expenses they cover for their work and the City understands that delays in reimbursement can cause financial stress for employees.

To stop delays we encourage employees to not wait to submit expenses and for supervisors to review and approve in a timely manner.

For additional questions regarding expense reimbursement contact your supervisor or department human resources professional.

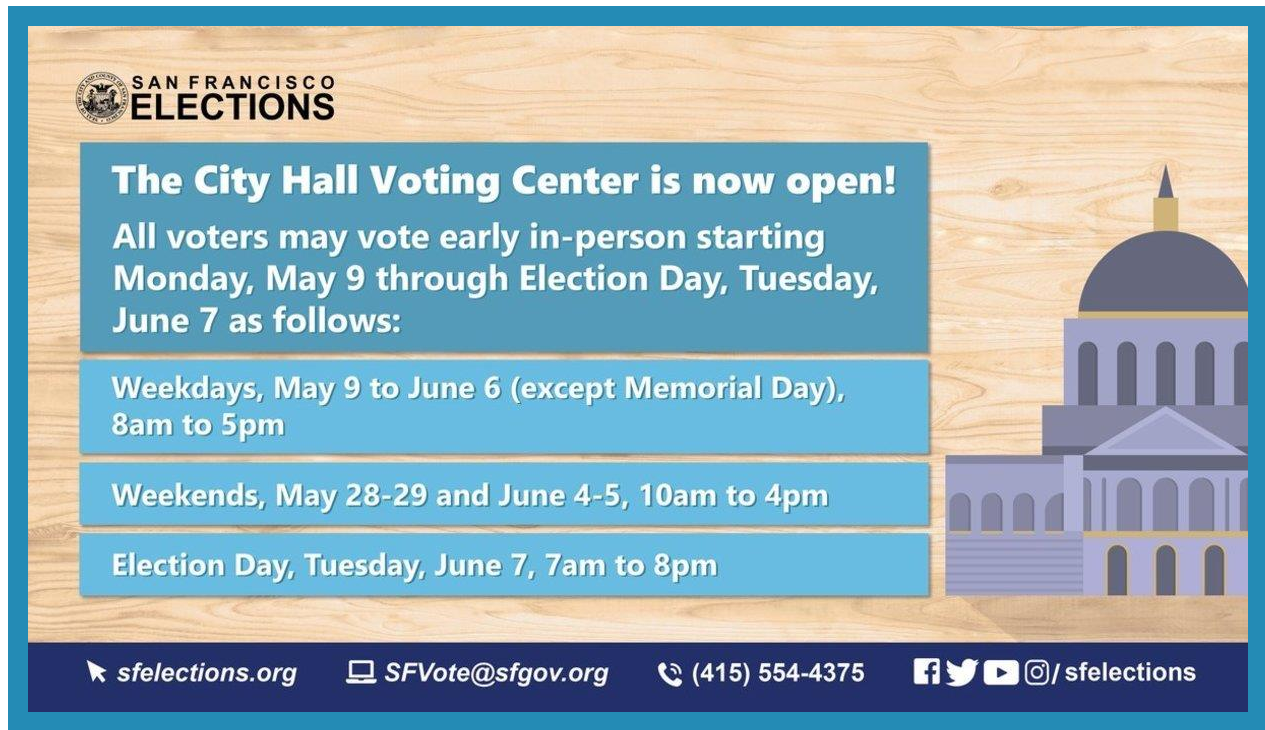
## Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Data

The City and County of San Francisco strives to be an inclusive workplace for people of all gender identities and sexual orientations. To address LGBTQ+ equity issues and employee needs effectively, we need a better understanding of our workforce.

To that end, beginning January 1, 2022, the city has implemented a new policy for collecting information on the sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) of our employees and applicants.

Employees can now voluntarily enter their own SOGI data on the [SF Employee Portal](#) by going to the Employee Links tab, then under HR Information clicking Update Your Demographic Info.

The city remains committed to upholding protections for its LGBTQ+ applicants and employees, and to maintaining the privacy of all its applicants and employees. Entering your SOGI data is voluntary, and the Department of Human Resources will report on this data in an aggregate way. If you have any questions about this policy, please contact your department's human resources representative.



**SAN FRANCISCO ELECTIONS**

**The City Hall Voting Center is now open!**  
All voters may vote early in-person starting Monday, May 9 through Election Day, Tuesday, June 7 as follows:

- Weekdays, May 9 to June 6 (except Memorial Day), 8am to 5pm
- Weekends, May 28-29 and June 4-5, 10am to 4pm
- Election Day, Tuesday, June 7, 7am to 8pm

[sfelections.org](https://sfelections.org)   [SFVote@sfgov.org](mailto:SFVote@sfgov.org)   (415) 554-4375   [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [YouTube](#) [Instagram](#) /sfelections

## Free Diapers to Families on Public Benefits

Families who receive CalWORKs, CalFresh, or Medi-Cal in San Francisco can visit one of nine [community pick up locations](#) to request free diapers. Program participants are required to show their CalFresh [EBT](#) card or Medi-Cal Benefits Identification Card (“BIC card”) and a valid government-issued ID card. Participation in the Diaper Bank will not reduce monthly benefit amounts for food and cash assistance. For any questions, call SFHSA at (415) 558-4700.

San Francisco Diaper Bank distribution sites include SFHSA service centers, the Bayview Hunters Point YMCA, Children’s Council of San Francisco, Compass Connecting Point, OMI Family Resource Center, Sunset Family Resource Center, and Visitation Valley Strong Families. For more information, visit: [sfdiaperbank.org](https://sfdiaperbank.org).

## Well-Being Updates

### Mental Health Awareness Month

May is **Mental Health Awareness** Month. Now is the time to assess yourself or your situation and reach out for the mental health support you need.

Check out Mayor Breed's PSA to kick off Mental Health Awareness month below:



## Dealing with Stress or Anxiety?

Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act and can affect our physical health also. It helps determine how we deal with stress, relate to others, make choices and how we function at work and in our personal lives.

Ask for help when you are having difficulty dealing with the anxiety on your own. EAP Counselors are available for free and confidential telehealth counseling and consultations for active employees.

- **SFHSS Employee Assistance Program**  
Call **(628) 652-4600** Monday through Friday 8:00am-5:00pm for assistance.
- Download No-cost apps:
  - Insight Timer** - An app for sleep, anxiety, and stress
  - Liberate** - A safe space for people of color to develop a meditation practice
  - Sanvello** - An app to help with stress, anxiety, and depression
- Attend Stress First Aid: Creating A Culture of Support & Self-Care Workshops on **May 24th** or Mental Health First Aid workshops on **June 1st** or **June 6th**.

**For more resources and employee benefits visit SFHSS website here.**

## Employee Spotlight

### 2022 Emergency Medical Services Awards

The EMS Awards honor EMS professionals and community members alike that have demonstrated compassion and exemplified unmatched professionalism throughout San Francisco's emergency medical services community and San Franciscans in need.

Congratulations to Christopher Mendez, Jennifer Ishikawa, Drs. Kathy LeSaint, Juan Carlos Montoy, Eric Silverman, Ms. Virginia Chan, Ms. Theresa Sandholdt, Matthew Faris, Larry Para, Fred Salan, Richard Pikelney.

For detailed summaries about the awardees please visit: [San Francisco Celebrates the 2022 Emergency Medical Services Awards | SF72](https://www.sf72.org/blog) or [www.sf72.org/blog](https://www.sf72.org/blog)

## The San Francisco Fire Department Rescued a Parrot!

The parrot is in the care of the San Francisco Animal Care and Control. Thank you to Truck 11 SFFD and SFACC!

