



City and County of San Francisco  
London N. Breed  
Mayor

**San Francisco Health Commission**  
Department of Public Health

January 30, 2019

To: All DPH Staff

From: Dr. Edward A. Chow, President of the San Francisco Health Commission

Re: Announcement of New Director of Health

Dear DPH staff,

I am delighted to announce that Mayor London N. Breed has selected **Dr. Grant Colfax** as the new Director of the Department of Public Health. Mayor Breed made the announcement earlier today in her State of the City address (attached).

Dr. Colfax is a national leader on HIV Prevention and was trained at UCSF. He currently serves as Director of Marin County Health and Human Services. He previously worked at SFDPH as Director of HIV Prevention and Research before leaving to join the Obama White House as the Director of National AIDS Policy. He will start as San Francisco Health Director on February 19.

A national search for the Director of Health was conducted over the last several months by the Health Commission and coordinated by the City's Department of Human Resources. We received many qualified candidates and the Health Commission was very pleased with the caliber of the individuals we presented to the Mayor for her final decision.

We are confident that Dr. Colfax has the skills and experience to lead the DPH, working with the diverse communities and other City agencies on important public health issues impacting San Francisco. On behalf of the entire Health Commission, we welcome Dr. Colfax back to the Department.

We would also like to thank Greg Wagner, who has done an outstanding job serving as Acting Director of Health since late August. He has stayed true to the Department's goals and priorities, making progress and providing stability during a time of upheaval. Greg has led the Department with grace and dedication while still fulfilling his role as Chief Financial Officer.

We commend each of you for the flexibility and perseverance you have shown during this transitional time. We look forward to working with all of you, and Director Colfax, to forge an exciting and successful future. In the year ahead, we look to address some of the City's biggest challenges while also transforming the DPH with a new electronic health record.

Thank you for your contributions to the health and wellbeing of all San Franciscans.