



San Francisco Department of Public Health

Barbara A. Garcia, MPA
Director of Health

City and County of San Francisco
Edwin M. Lee
Mayor

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To: All DPH Staff and Community Partners

From: Barbara Garcia, Director of Health

Re: Re-Affirming Immigrant Access to Care in San Francisco

Some of you may have heard that there was a concerning incident yesterday, when agents from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) appeared at Good Samaritan Family Resource Center in the Mission District. According to news reports, immigration officials said it was not a raid, but that they were attempting to find a convicted sex offender wanted for deportation at an address nearby.

We don't know all the details of what happened, and why. But we do know that the visit was very rattling to the staff at Good Samaritan and to the broader community based organizations and immigrant community. Coming on the heels of President Trump signing executive orders to set in motion building a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border and to strip federal funding from sanctuary cities, this brief visit by ICE sounds an alarm for many members of our community.

At the Health Department, our mission has not changed. We are dedicated to serving all those in need of care, without regard to immigration or insurance status. The Mayor has pledged that San Francisco always will be a sanctuary city.

We are working with community organizations, the Mayor's office and other city agencies to ensure that all San Franciscans, including immigrants, continue to access services in their communities. We are consulting with the City Attorney to make sure we have the strongest legal advice moving forward.

Please help us get the message out to all providers in the community. Share this information, especially with staff in the community clinics. We will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available.

We will be collecting your questions and concerns and continuing to support you. Please refer any questions to post-election@sfdph.org

Thank you for all you do every day for our community.

Barbara A. Garcia