Modernizing California's Hospital Disaster Preparedness Standards — The Future of Care Delivery in the Bay Area Hangs in the Balance

As Bay Area hospitals recover from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, they face a looming building standards mandate that will divert billions of dollars from patient and community investments. After decades of work and billions already spent to make California hospitals the gold standard for structural safety, hospitals are well-prepared to respond to earthquakes or other disasters. Now, it is time for lawmakers to focus on the future of care delivery by prioritizing policies that ensure ongoing emergency services and provide hospitals time to recover from the pandemic.

Area of detail

Counties of the Bay Area

SONOMA
NAPA
SOLANO
MARIN
CONTRA COSTA
SAN FRANCISCO
ALAMEDA
SAN MATEO
SANTA CLARA
SANTA CRUZ
MONTEREY

Counties of the Bay Area

Alameda
Contra Costa
Marin
Monterey
Napa
San Francisco
San Mateo
Santa Clara
Santa Cruz
Solano
Sonoma

Every year, at hospitals in the Bay Area:

584,912
Inpatient stays

2.2 million
ED visits

26%
Medi-Cal enrollees as a % of total population

84,498
Births

287,688
Directly employed and 'ripple effect' jobs

$70.6 billion
Total economic output

California hospitals are struggling

39% of hospitals operate in the red

More than **$10 billion** in losses, even after federal CARES Act funding (2020-21)

Community priorities Bay Area hospitals would like to invest in:

- Expansion of behavioral health prevention programs
- Expansion of medical respite services
- Digital infrastructure to support telehealth and other remote care capabilities
- Workforce training and retention programs for nurses and allied health professionals
- Reduction of carbon footprint through energy retrofits
- Partnerships to address homelessness and housing insecurity
- Collaborative initiatives to reduce health disparities among diverse populations

To be better prepared for future disasters, hospitals say the Bay Area needs:

- Advanced detection and care for infectious diseases
- Improved patient transportation services and evacuation capabilities
- Enhanced emergency communications capabilities
- Expanded EMS resources

California Hospital Association

Hospital Council
Northern & Central California