

World Cup 2026 Planning and Preparedness

Action Steps/ Recipient Instructions

Public Health Authorities: Please forward to hospitals, clinics, urgent care centers, emergency departments, healthcare coalitions, and community partners in your jurisdiction.

Hospitals, clinics and other facilities: Please forward to primary care clinicians, urgent care and emergency department providers, and all other healthcare providers who may see patients presenting with illness associated with attending World Cup events in your jurisdiction.

Summary

The [Health Department Name] is issuing this Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory to raise awareness about the possible public health concerns related to World Cup 2026 and associated events. World Cup 2026 will occur June 11–July 19, 2026, across three host countries—the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Beginning in late Spring, an estimated 5 million people are expected to travel internationally and domestically in connection with the tournament, and other pre-tournament matches and festivities.

Key Points

- Be vigilant for travel-related and unusual illnesses during 2026 FIFA World Cup 2026-related events. Inquire about recent travel when people present for healthcare.
- Review and update emergency response and preparedness plans. Make sure to coordinate with state and local partners during World Cup 2026 events to maintain situational awareness
- Report any immediately reportable conditions, outbreaks, unusual presentations, or clusters of disease to [Health Department Name] at [telephone number]. Include any information that may link illness to attendance at a FIFA World Cup event.

Contact Information

[Health Department Name] requests clinicians notify public health of suspected or confirmed illnesses associated with participation or attendance at World Cup events at [telephone number] (business hours), [telephone number] (after hours) or [email].

Background

The [2026 FIFA World Cup](#) will include 48 teams and 104 matches across 16 host cities, in 39 days. Games will take place in 11 host cities in the United States: Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Miami, New York/New Jersey, Philadelphia, San Francisco Bay Area, and Seattle. Host cities outside the United States include Guadalajara, Mexico City, Monterrey (Mexico), and Toronto and Vancouver (Canada). Teams will also arrive at training and base camp locations prior to the start of the tournament.

Concurrent events associated with the tournament include [FIFA Fan Festival](#) public viewing events in the host city and surrounding areas. Other noteworthy events occurring during the tournament period include the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America on July 4th, Pride festivals, and multiple music and summer festivals around the country.

[add jurisdiction-specific event information here]

Recommendations for Health Care Providers

- Be alert for travel-related illnesses or possible clusters or outbreaks of illness associated with attendance at World Cup Events:
 - Ask all patients about recent travel history, and whether they have attended any World Cup events locally or elsewhere.
 - Be alert for signs and symptoms of communicable diseases not typically seen in your jurisdiction, such as hemorrhagic fevers, malaria, dengue, and other vector-borne or vaccine-preventable illnesses or other diseases that may be seen outside of the normal season (e.g., flu).
 - Review CDC's [Travel Health Notices](#) for latest advisories and recommendations related to global outbreaks.
 - Be familiar with high consequence infectious disease risks and be prepared to identify, isolate, and inform your health department about suspect cases.
- Report any suspected or confirmed reportable diseases or conditions and any suspected outbreaks [link to jurisdiction reportable disease list]
 - Ensure staff are familiar with immediately reportable conditions, including high-consequence biological agents.
 - Report any suspected or confirmed cases to [jurisdiction] by [phone number] or [email].
 - Reference [CSTE Epi On Call](#) information
 - Inform the health department of any potential link to the 2026 FIFA World Cup events.
- Be aware of the possibility of heat-related or foodborne illnesses associated with attendance at the games or other World Cup-related events.
- Be aware of potential increases in crowd-related injuries, including burns, smoke inhalation and other injuries related to pyrotechnics/
- Be aware of potential increases in substance use and overdose events.
- Review triage protocols for different threats with staff, including when and what level of decontamination and personal protective equipment (PPE) are needed. Reinforce infection prevention and control (IPC) by reviewing triage protocols, PPE availability, isolation capacity, and staff training for respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses.

Coordinate with state and local partners, including Emergency Medical Services and the local Office of Emergency Management, to maintain situational awareness of planned events and notifications in your jurisdiction and surrounding areas.

Recommendations for Health Departments

- Anticipate possible threats to the public's health
 - Use an all-hazards approach and consider planning for chemical, biological, radiological/nuclear, explosive, and environmental or natural disaster threats.
 - Identify which teams will reside or [play](#) in your jurisdiction. Expect increased travel from countries whose teams are residing or playing in your jurisdiction. Travelers may come from around the world and may have traveled between match sites within the United States, Canada, and Mexico.
 - Review CDC's [Travel Health Notices](#) for latest advisories and recommendations related to global outbreaks.
 - Review CDC's [Yellow Book](#) for travel medicine topics.

Factor	Potential Public Health Risks
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Weather	• Heat related illness (dehydration, heat stroke, heat exhaustion) • Air quality (increased air pollution, pollen and mold, or particulate matter from droughts and wildfires) • Mosquito/vector exposure • Meteorological, geological, and electrical storms and events, hurricanes
Multiday outdoor sporting events	• Higher risk of communicable disease transmission • Substance (alcohol or drug) use and potential increase in overdose emergencies • Crowd surges, injuries, or burns • Increased risk of foodborne illness from food vendors • Strain on public health system • Increased cardiovascular events
International visitors	• Importation/exportation of disease • Risk of delayed access to healthcare due to unfamiliarity with healthcare system • Communicable disease for unvaccinated or vulnerable travelers to endemic pathogens or parasites • Unknown immunity of travelers • Increased need for translation services
Other threats	• Mass casualty incidents • Terrorism (e.g., chemical or biological attacks) • Cyber incidents • Pandemic • Human trafficking • Spontaneous mass gatherings • Civil unrest, riots, protests • Multiple or overlapping public health emergencies at the same time

- Review procedures that address testing and medical treatment from biological, chemical, and radiological agents as well as treatment from blast and bombing injuries or other mass casualty events.
- Ensure systems are in place for rapid detection of potential health threats and timely reporting of notifiable conditions.
 - Consider modifying existing surveillance systems to monitor potential exposures at 2026 FIFA World Cup games and events.

- Plan for public health actions based on disease priorities and surveillance plans, including conducting public health investigations for international travelers.
 - Consider using other data sources (e.g., hospital capacity and utilization, EMS data) to enhance situational awareness.
 - Verify surveillance plans include how to access, report, and share surveillance information with both internal and external partners.
- Prioritize investing in relationships in advance of an emergency.
 - Enhance interagency collaboration, engagement in interagency training and exercises, and sharing resources across public and private sectors and agencies.
 - Establish and strengthen close working relationships within public health systems (local, state, federal, and tribal), emergency management; local partners engaged in venue management, law enforcement, vector control agencies, and the media.
 - Initiate early conversations with partners to understand roles, responsibilities, and authorities for possible scenarios and emergencies that may take place during the World Cup events.
- Confirm that clinical and public health laboratories review their supply inventory, surge and hazard plans, and have appropriate and sufficient PPE and test kit quantities.
- Verify jurisdictions have rapid access to existing caches of medical countermeasures (MCMs) or have the ability to request federal or partner support.
 - Ensure jurisdictions have the ability to receive, stage, store, distribute, and dispense MCMs at the speed and scale that a World Cup-size event may require.
- Prepare for administrative readiness, including:
 - Identifying officials authorized to sign emergency declaration, approve funds, contracts, and staffing changes.
 - Understanding existing funding mechanisms, local public health legal authorities, and continuity of operations (e.g., phone chains, power and internet outage scenarios).
 - Develop surge staffing plans, pre-roster staff if activating an Incident Management Team, and engage federal resources as needed (e.g., FDA for food inspection support in host cities).
 - Coordinate and communicate activation plans with state emergency management and local partners.
 - Share contact lists across public and private sectors.
- Develop risk communications.
 - Identify platforms that will be used for sharing information and how you will send notifications related to public health outbreaks or exposure events.
 - Prepare public facing risk communication materials that consider linguistic diversity, literacy levels and other cultural needs.
- Verify readiness of the healthcare system.
 - Alert major healthcare systems about the potential for increased patient volume during World Cup events.
 - Ensure that patient flow processes are well established, and gaps are addressed.
 - Review surge capacity and Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans.
 - Reinforce infection prevention and control and clinical guidelines, particularly priority conditions.

For more Information:

- [\[INSERT state/local resources here\]](#)

- [Travel Health Notices | CDC](#)
- [Yellow Book | CDC](#)
- [Crisis & Emergency Risk Communications | CDC](#)
- [Current Foodborne Outbreaks | CDC](#)
- [Port Health Station Contact List | Port Health | CDC](#)
- [Participating Teams | FIFA](#)
- [Team Base Camps | FIFA](#)
- [Medical Countermeasures | FEMA.gov](#)
- [Bioterrorism and High Consequence Biological Threats | ASPR TRACIE](#)
- [Active Shooter and Explosives | ASPR TRACIE](#)
- Visit [CDC-INFO](#) or call CDC-INFO at 1-800-232-4636
- CDC 24/7 Emergency Operations Center (EOC) 770-488-7100