



Surveying for Diseases at Mass Gatherings: FIFA World Cup Preparedness

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Agenda

- Overview of Core Public Health Responsibilities for Mass Gathering Events
 - Environmental Health
 - Disease Surveillance and Control
 - Emergency Management and Bioterrorism Preparedness
 - Communications and Collaboration

FIFA World Cup 2026

- The 2026 FIFA World Cup will be hosted by 11 cities in the United States, 2 cities in Canada, and 3 cities in Mexico:
 - **United States:** Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Miami, New York/New Jersey, Philadelphia, San Francisco/Bay Area, and Seattle
 - **Canada:** Toronto and Vancouver
 - **Mexico:** Guadalajara, Mexico City, and Monterrey
- Tournament goes from June 11-July 19, 2026



FIFA World Cup 2026

- First match June 11: Mexico City
- 8 games at SoFi Stadium (re-branded Los Angeles Stadium):
 - June 12: USA vs. Paraguay (1st match in US)
 - June 15: Iran vs. New Zealand
 - June 18: Switzerland vs. Bosnia & Herzegovina
 - June 21: Belgium vs. Iran
 - June 25: USA vs. Turkey
 - June 28: Round of 32 Knockout match
 - July 2: Round of 32 Knockout match
 - July 10: Quarter-Final match
- Final Match July 19: New Jersey/New York



Fan Festival

- LA Coliseum: June 10 – 14, 2026
- Anticipated hours of operation:
 - 9 am – 9 pm
- Anticipated about 40K people/day
 - Live match broadcasts on giant screens
 - Food, live music, and entertainment



10 Fan Zones Across LA County

Live match viewing and “immersive fan experiences”

1. The Original Farmers Market: June 18 – 21
2. City of Downey: June 20
3. Heart of the City - Union Station & LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes: June 25-28
4. Hansen Dam Lake: July 2 – 5
5. LA County’s Earvin “Magic” Johnson Park: July 4 – 5
6. LA County Whittier Narrows: July 9 – 11
7. Venice Beach: July 11
8. Fairplex: July 14-15 & July 18-19
9. West Harbor: July 14-15 & July 18-19
10. Downtown Burbank: July 18-19



Core Public Health Responsibilities during FIFA World Cup Events

- Environmental Health
- Disease Surveillance and Control
- Emergency Management and WMD Preparedness



Environmental Health

Food Safety and Inspections

- Permitting and inspections of all planned community events (FIFA Sponsored and Others)
 - Includes mobile food facilities and temporary food facilities
- Proactive inspections of all permanent venues (SoFi/LA Stadium and LA Memorial Coliseum)

Outbreak Response

- Assisting ACDC with environmental investigations as warranted (e.g., food, water)

Hotel Inspections

- Conducting proactive inspections prior to the event

EH Strike Team to support BioWatch activities

Emergency Management

DPH Departmental Operations Center DOC – EPRD supports emergency management activation

Emergency Operations Centers – EPRD sends staff to represent agency

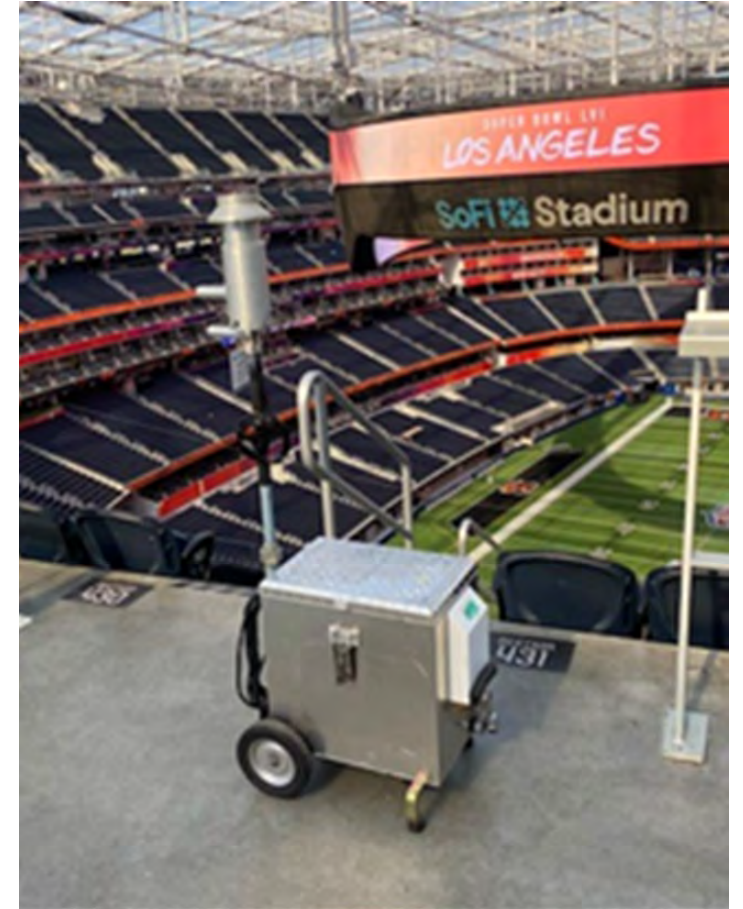
Command Posts- Technical Advisory Group (TAG) personnel provides BT/WMD support to CP Operations.

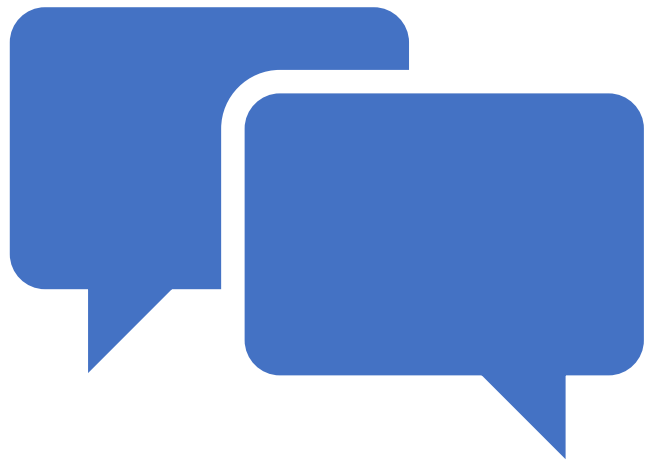


Emergency Management

WMD Preparedness

- **BioWatch**- DPH Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will conduct BioWatch operations at SoFi Stadium, LA Coliseum, and most of the Fan Zones
- **WMD Incident Response Team**- Emergency Ops team will be strategically staged with FBI, LAPD, Sheriff, and Fire Hazmat partners (JHAT) to respond to white powder letters, suspicious substances, and other WMD threats
- **FBI Collaboration**- DPH collaborates with the FBI to conduct any bioterrorism or WMD investigations
- **Joint Regional Intelligence Center (JRIC)** - The TAG will be linked with the JRIC for continuous flow of threat intelligence information





Methods of Communication:

- Dedicated Public Health webpage with event-related health guidance
- Social media messaging and partner amplification
- Multilingual one-page guidance materials and flyers
- Posters and materials for hospitals, vendors, and community partners
- Messaging at transportation hubs, airports, and high-traffic gathering locations

Communications



Key Audiences

- Los Angeles County residents attending games and fan events
- Event attendees at stadiums and fan activation sites
- Workers and vendors supporting events
- Travelers visiting Los Angeles County
- Healthcare providers and public health partners for disease surveillance communications



Coordination Approach

- County will coordinate through a Joint Information Center (JIC) for “One Voice” Messaging
- Collaboration across Public Health programs
- Coordination with regional partners such as Metro, airports, local jurisdictions, and event organizers
- Alignment with messaging from city and county agencies supporting the event
- Event webpage will serve as a central hub for health guidance

Communications



Messaging Content

- **Hydration & Heat Safety**

Stay hydrated before, during, and after events; recognize signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

- **Communicable Disease Prevention**

Handwashing, staying home when sick, vaccination awareness, and travel-related disease risks.

Priority conditions include norovirus, foodborne illness, Shigella, STIs, and measles.

- **Responsible Celebrations & Safety**

Party responsibly and peacefully, avoid impaired driving, and stay aware of pedestrian safety in crowded areas.

- **Food Safety**

Encourage residents and visitors to choose permitted vendors and look for the County's food safety grading system.



Audience Questions

Question 1

- ***What areas or issues should Public Health focus on most during mass sporting events?***

Question 2

- ***What would be the most helpful public health information for your audience/stakeholders?***

Question 3

- *What is the best way to share Public Health messages with your partners and stakeholders?*

Thank you!



Art by Thieb Delaporte-Richard