



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**

Alister Martin, MD, MPP
Commissioner

**2026 Health Alert #16:
Clinical Considerations for FIFA World Cup 2026 and
Other Mass Gathering Events this Summer**

Please distribute to all clinical staff in emergency medicine, family medicine, geriatrics, internal medicine, pediatrics, and pharmacy.

- From June through July 2026, the NY/NJ area will host the FIFA World Cup (eight matches at MetLife Stadium, including the July 19 final) alongside the Sail 250 tall-ships parade and other large events tied to the U.S. 250th birthday.
- Anticipate increased healthcare utilization associated with an influx of travelers, mass gatherings, and exposure to elevated temperatures. No major issues have been reported as of June 24, 2026.
- The NYC Health Department [Summer Events Provider webpage](#) is live. It consolidates clinical considerations, public health risks, reporting pathways, and provider resources for the summer 2026 mass-gathering season.
 - Maintain awareness for [respiratory, gastrointestinal](#) and [travel-associated infections, sexually transmitted infections, mental health and substance use presentations, heat-related illness, and trauma associated with crowds](#).
- Report all mandatory diseases and conditions according to [normal protocol](#). With visitors crossing jurisdictions, reports should be made to the health department where the individual resides or is staying (NYC, NYS-outside-NYC, or NJ). Healthcare provider communication is a key public health preparedness priority for the NYC Health Department; [please complete a brief survey regarding your communication preferences here](#).

June 24, 2026

This alert follows the NYC Health Department's *2026 Health Alert #10* (May 14, 2026) and the New York State Department of Health's Advisory (June 11, 2026). [Preparing for Health Risks Associated with Mass Gatherings in New York State and the Surrounding Region during Summer 2026](#). The below provides an overview of the NYC Health Department's new [Summer Events webpage for providers](#).

As the New York/New Jersey region prepares to serve as a hub for the 2026 FIFA World Cup and several concurrent large-scale events, the [webpage](#) provides a single source for health-related considerations, clinical guidance, and reporting pathways. The NYC Health Department will continue to issue routine situational updates throughout the summer.

Potential Health Concerns

- **Heat-related illness / hyperthermia** — rapid recognition and active cooling.
- **Infectious diseases** — obtain travel history, identify, isolate and inform the Health Department of patients with known or suspected airborne-transmissible or high consequence diseases.
- **Mental health** — anticipate individuals with substance use and acute stress related health issues and be familiar with referral pathways.
- **Extreme weather** — anticipate health related issues associated with flash flooding and impaired air quality.
- **International attendees** — be prepared to offer translation services and consider travel associated conditions.
- **Healthcare strain** — prepare for surge staffing, trauma surge, and airborne isolation capacity needs.
- **Civil unrest** — anticipate care of people with traumatic injuries and crowd-control-agent exposures.
- **Other threats** — Chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear exposures, human trafficking recognition and reporting, and power-outage planning for people who are equipment-dependent.

For more information, please visit [Summer Events: Information for Providers](#) and review highlights below.

Highlights & Clinical Guidelines

Heat-Related Illness

- For suspected exertional or classic heat stroke, prioritize rapid recognition and immediate active cooling; do not delay cooling for diagnostic testing.
- Obtain a core (preferably rectal) temperature in any person with suspected hyperthermia and altered mental status. Ice-based cooling is first-line; target core temperature below 39°C (102.2°F) as quickly and safely as possible.
- Counsel people on warning signs, when to call 911, medications that impair thermoregulation, and the added risk from alcohol and stimulants such as cocaine and methamphetamine.
- Immediately report deaths where heat exposure is a suspected direct or contributing cause to the NYC Office of Chief Medical Examiner at **212-447-2030**.

Infectious Disease

- Ask about recent travel or country of residence for any patient with febrile illness. Remain vigilant for measles, MERS, viral hemorrhagic fevers, active tuberculosis, enteric diseases (hepatitis A, typhoid), STIs, and mosquito-borne diseases (dengue, malaria).
- Immediately isolate and report people with suspected or confirmed measles, Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), viral hemorrhagic fever, or active tuberculosis (TB) in airborne isolation. Call the NYC Health Department Provider Access Line at **866-692-3641** to report and receive guidance.
- Report [diseases and conditions](#); clusters, outbreaks, and rare/highly infectious diseases require immediate notification. Online reports are made through [PRISM](#) (formerly known as Reporting Central). Testing performed at the NYC Public Health Laboratory requires an [eOrder](#) account.

Mental Health & Substance Use

- Screen for alcohol and substance use; manage intoxication and overdose, ensure safety, and refer as needed. Provide brief psychological support for acute stress reactions and de-escalation for emotional dysregulation.

- For pre-existing conditions, review history and ensure medication continuity. Refer or escalate to mental health services as needed; the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is available for patients in crisis.

Trauma, Crowds & Civil Unrest

- Be prepared for blunt trauma, lacerations, fractures, and burns associated with crowd surges or confrontations, and for crowd-control-agent exposures (tear gas, pepper spray) — treat with copious irrigation and removal from exposure.
- Anticipate ED volume surges during and after mass gatherings; activate surge protocols and confirm staff are current on lockdown, security, and emergency communication plans.

Reporting Across Jurisdictions

Because the World Cup will draw visitors who live outside NYC — and NYC residents traveling to other host cities — confirm the correct public health authority before reporting:

- **NYC residents or visitors staying in NYC:** report to the NYC Health Department — Provider Access Line **866-692-3641**.
- **NYS residents outside NYC:** report to the NYS Department of Health — Public Health Duty Officer Helpline **1-866-881-2809**.
- **NJ residents or visitors staying in NJ:** report to the NJ Department of Health — **800-367-6543** (after hours **609-392-2020**).
- For reports of tuberculosis, Ebola, or other high consequence pathogens, providers should report to the jurisdiction in which the facility caring for the person is located. In NYC, call the Provider Access Line at 866-692-3641.

Other key NYC contacts: NYC Poison Control **212-POISONS (212-764-7667)**; NYC Emergency Management non-emergency healthmedical@oem.nyc.gov, emergencies **718-422-8700**.

Resources & Webinars

- [Summer Events: Information for Providers](#) — full clinical considerations, risks, and reporting guidance.
- [NYC Health Department Webinar on Reporting Protocols \(FIFA World Cup & Reporting 101\) — Recording Link](#) (Passcode: #tzN+g5C)
- NYC Health+Hospitals / Bellevue, the Region 2 Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center, has hosted a series of trainings related to FIFA World Cup

Preparedness, featuring experts on topic areas ranging from mass casualty preparedness to bioterrorism.

- [Intro to FIFA World Cup and America 250 Events](#)
 - [FIFA Topic – Mass Casualty: Overview and Medical Surge/Load Balancing](#)
 - [Mass Casualty: Vehicular Attack and Active Shooter](#)
 - [Heat Emergency and Air Quality](#)
 - [Hantavirus](#)
 - [Bioterrorism](#)
 - [Travel-Associated Infections and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases](#)
-
- [New York State Department of Health](#)
 - [New Jersey Department of Health](#)
 - [FIFA World Cup Comment Form for non-emergent provider questions](#)

Thank you for your commitment and collaboration in making this summer's events safe and healthy for New Yorkers and all who visit our city.