



To: CAHAN San Diego Participants

Date: June 5, 2026

From: Public Health Services

Health Advisory: World Cup 2026 and Summer Mass Gatherings

Key Messages

- While no [FIFA World Cup games](#) will be held in San Diego County, large numbers of international travelers are expected to arrive in Tijuana International Airport and pass through San Diego County traveling to Los Angeles (LA) especially between June 12 and July 10, 2026.
- Healthcare providers should be on increased alert for travel-related emerging and seasonal infectious diseases, including, but not limited to, measles, influenza, mpox, hepatitis A, dengue, chikungunya, and malaria. Heat-related illness and illicit drug related health effects may also increase.
- Providers should report all mandatory diseases to Public Health. Be aware of diseases that are immediately reportable by phone (indicated with ☎! when there is a single case and † when there are two) and on the [List of Reportable Conditions](#), including any unusual disease, and outbreaks of any disease. There are [additional diseases](#) that are only reportable in San Diego County. Report cases that are identified in San Diego County to [Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch](#), even if the patient is traveling from another jurisdiction.
- Providers can direct patients traveling to LA County to public health tips and resources for World Cup matches and large events at [Winning Starts with Staying Safe](#).

Situation

June to July 2026, San Diego County is expecting a substantial number of international travelers crossing the border and traveling by land for 2026 World Cup and related events. SoFi Stadium in LA County will host eight World Cup matches from June 12 through July 10, 2026. There will be additional [Fan Festivals](#) and other large organized public gatherings occurring throughout that county. More than 150,000 domestic and international visitors are expected in LA County during this time period. In addition, [two teams are based in the county](#): Switzerland will train in the San Diego Jewish Academy Stadium and New Zealand will train at the University of San Diego, Torero Stadium. Iran's national soccer team will be based in Tijuana, Mexico training at Centro Xoloitzcuintle Stadium. These may lead to additional and unplanned fan events in the county.

In addition, the World Cup period overlaps with [Pride Month](#) and other large regional gatherings that may further increase visitor volume and travel-associated exposures.

Background

Mass gatherings may create elevated risk for the spread of infectious diseases due to close contact among people from diverse geographic regions. Providers should maintain awareness for:

- Viral illnesses, including influenza A and COVID-19
- Vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, pertussis, and mumps
- Gastrointestinal illnesses
- Infections spread through close or intimate contact, including mpox and sexually transmitted infections
- Travel-associated infections such as dengue, chikungunya, and malaria

Hemisphere influenza circulation typically occurs from April to September and may contribute to imported influenza cases during this period.

Providers evaluating patients should obtain recent travel and event attendance histories and consider appropriate infection prevention measures and testing based on the history and clinical presentation.

In addition to infectious diseases, providers should anticipate increased presentations related to heat-related illness, dehydration, substance use, and overdose, which may increase during large public gatherings and celebrations.

Actions Requested

1. **Refer** patients visiting LA County, to that county's public health World Cup safety resources — including heat, alcohol and drug, food, and pedestrian safety, and communicable disease prevention — on the LA County Department of Public Health's [Winning Starts with Staying Safe](#) website.
2. **Consider proactively prescribing** or recommending naloxone to at-risk patients in anticipation of increased substance use. Free naloxone is also available in [County of San Diego Regional Public Health Centers](#) and [strategically placed vending machines](#). The machines also dispense free [fentanyl test strips](#). Free naloxone will also be available during the tournament period at Fan Zones and Health Stations (for locations, see [Winning Starts with Staying Safe](#)).
3. **Be alert** for travel-related emerging and seasonal infectious diseases.
4. **Ask** symptomatic patients about domestic or international travel history or attendance at a World Cup game or related fan event, Pride event, or other large gathering.
5. **Be vigilant** for unusual clusters of illness or symptoms that might signal an outbreak, such as an increased presentation of people with febrile illnesses, gastrointestinal illnesses, influenza like respiratory illnesses, and heat-related illnesses.
6. **Report** diseases and conditions on the [mandatory reporting list](#) to the County Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch during office hours by calling (866) 358-2966 Monday-Friday 8AM-5PM and (858) 565-5255 after hours and on weekends.

Resources

- [Safety for Soccer Fans | CDC](#)
- [Travel Health Notices | CDC](#)
- [Clinical Guidance for Heat Health | Heat Health | CDC](#)
- [Health Advisory: Keeping Patients Safe During Extreme Heat Events | COSD](#)
- [Health Advisory: Ebola Disease Outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda | COSD](#)
- [About Naloxone | COSD](#)

Thank you for your participation.

CAHAN San Diego

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