

2026 Philadelphia Summer Events Public Health Preparedness Recommendations

2026 Special Events Overview

Summary

- The FIFA World Cup will run June 11-July 19, 2026
- 16 host cities across Mexico, Canada, and the US
- [Match schedule](#) announced¹
 - 48 teams will participate from Asia, Africa, Europe, North and South America, and Oceania
- Estimated high of 6 million attendees in the US
- Philadelphia will host several special events for America’s 250th Anniversary, including the Wawa Welcome America festival from 6/28-7/4
- Philadelphia will host the MLB All-Star Game, with high-profile events on 7/13 and 7/14

Local Event Details

- [6 matches](#) at Lincoln Financial Field
 - Lincoln Financial Field Capacity: 68,000
 - Round of 16 match July 4
- FIFA Fan Festival at Lemon Hill
 - Open daily from June 11-July 19
 - Schedule available [here](#)
 - Estimated 15,000 people on peak days
- The Cote D’Ivoire team’s basecamp will be at Subaru Park in Chester, PA
 - Team hotel in Wilmington, DE
- 8 matches at MetLife Stadium in Northern NJ, including the final match on July 19

Public Health Risks²

Special Event Characteristics	Potential Public Health Risks
Sporting events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energetic, potentially aggressive mood • Injuries, violence, crowd surges • Alcohol and drug use/overdose emergencies
On-going events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher risk of communicable disease spread • Extended strain on public health systems • Extended strain on hospital and other healthcare systems
Summer activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dehydration • Heat stroke and other heat-related illnesses • Poor air quality (e.g., smog, wildfires) and allergies • Mosquito, tick, other insect, and animal exposures
International attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delayed access to healthcare due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Unfamiliarity with healthcare system ○ Challenges contacting and communicating with international visitors ○ Delayed reporting and communicable disease intervention due to travel/residency • Communicable disease spread among unvaccinated or vulnerable travelers • Possibility of non-endemic communicable diseases unfamiliar to healthcare systems • Unknown immunity to vaccine-preventable diseases • Difficulty adhering to recommended isolation and/or quarantine recommendations for communicable diseases
Informal food vendors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased risk of food-borne illness
Other threats at mass gatherings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infectious disease outbreak or pandemic • Mass casualty incidents • Terrorism (e.g., biological, chemical, or radiological attacks) • Human trafficking • Multiple or overlapping public health emergencies happening at once

¹ Monitor FIFA websites for updates regarding [match schedules](#), [team base camps](#), and [fan events](#).

² World Health Organization (WHO). [Public Health for Mass Gatherings: Key Considerations](#).

Planning Checklist

Healthcare and EMS providers should apply an all-hazards planning approach and ensure existing plans and response protocols are reviewed and updated, as needed.

PLANNING & PREPAREDNESS FOR HEALTHCARE INSTITUTIONS

- Review all-hazards and disease-specific response plans
- Establish or update emergency roles and responsibilities for all staff
- Develop surge staffing plans for potential incidents (e.g., communicable disease outbreak, mass casualty incident)
- Refresh staff training on Incident Command System structure and activation
- Update emergency contact lists and review notification procedures for weekend and after-hours emergencies
- Review PPE needs for staff and refresh staff training on appropriate PPE use
- Review inventory and maintain stockpile supplies
- Review and update plans for staff monitoring in the event of an exposure to a communicable disease or chemical agent
- Ensure knowledge of the proper reporting mechanisms, including phone numbers for local and state health departments
- Ensure access to and familiarity with Healthcare Coalition data sharing systems
- Review and update your closed point of dispensing plan to ensure readiness to dispense medical countermeasures to your agency's population. For assistance with planning, visit the [Health Information Portal](#) or contact ClosedPOD@phila.gov.
- Ensure patient transport plans are in place, including plans for surge and highly pathogenic infectious disease
- Review [downtime procedures](#) and continuity plans
- Review and update mass fatality and decedent management procedures
- Determine spaces to absorb additional patient surge
- Test plans, procedures, and protocols, including triage drills and exercises

COMMUNICATION

- Review and update your Communications Plan and establish procedures to address rumors
- Ensure availability of and staff familiarity with interpretation services
- Encourage staff and patients to enroll in [ReadyPhiladelphia](#) for emergency and weather alerts
- Report incidents at your facility to the Southeast PA Healthcare Coordination Desk: 267-546-4839

HIGH CONSEQUENCE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

- Remind clinical staff to assess for recent travel – both international and domestic – when evaluating patients, including asking about and documenting attendance at World Cup events
- Apply the [Identify, Isolate, and Inform Framework](#) to manage patients with potential HCIDs
- Review infection prevention and control (IPC) plans and protocols for clinical and laboratory settings
 - Ensure healthcare personnel, lab workers, and staff are up to date with [IPC guidance](#) and training at the appropriate level.
 - Review [Standard Precautions](#) and [Healthcare Respiratory Protection](#) resources.
- Review [CDC travel health notices](#) as well as state and local health alerts
 - Ensure staff sign up for the [Philadelphia Health Alert Network](#)
- Ensure relevant staff are familiar with disease reporting processes, including when it is necessary to immediately [report a suspected pathogen](#).
- Review specimen collection and transport protocols, including updated [open acceptance hours](#) for the PADOH Bureau of Laboratories
- Prepare to rapidly identify and respond to measles cases among travelers
 - Review the [PDPH Health Advisory](#) from February 2026 for local reporting and testing information
 - Review the [CDC's Checklist for Preparing and Responding to Measles](#)
- Prepare to rapidly identify and respond to mpox cases
 - Review the [PDPH Health Advisory](#) for testing, vaccination, and treatment information

Health Department Contact List

For non-urgent special event preparedness or general planning questions, reach out to publichealthpreparedness@phila.gov or your primary PDPH contact.

PDPH Acute Communicable Diseases	Phone: Business hours (M–F, 8:30am–5pm): 215-685-6741 After hours, weekends, and holidays: 215-686-4514, dial 1 and ask for the Division of Disease Control staffer on call for immediately reportable diseases or event-related communicable disease concerns
PA Department of Health	877-PA-HEALTH 717-787-3350
Bucks County Department of Health	Phone: 215-345-3318
Chester County Health Department	Phone: 610-344-6225 Email: healthoperationscenter@chesco.org
Delaware County Health Department	Phone: 484-276-2100 Email: DelcoWellness@co.delaware.pa.us
Montgomery County Office of Public Health	Phone: 610-278-5117 After hours: 610-635-4300 Email: MCOPHCommunicable@montgomerycountypa.gov
Delaware Department of Health and Social Services	Phone: 1-888-295-5156 Email: reportdisease@delaware.gov
NJ Department of Health Communicable Disease Services	Phone: 609-826-5964 (M-F, 8a-5p) After hours: 609-392-2020

Helpful Resources

Special Event Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FIFA World Cup: Philadelphia • 2026 Philadelphia Resource Hub • Hospital Preparedness Checklist (NW Healthcare Response Network)
Heat Health Emergencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philadelphia Extreme Heat Guide • Educational materials and resources in multiple languages • Heat Health Emergency information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Philadelphia Corporation for Aging Heatline: 215-765-9040 ○ Cooling center locations: 3-1-1 • Philadelphia homeless outreach team: 215-232-1984
Screening and Investigation Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological and Chemical Agents of Concern Fact Sheets (Johns Hopkins) • Radiation Emergencies resources for clinicians (CDC) • Travelers' Health (CDC) • CareRef Clinical Assessment Tool (Minnesota Department of Health)
EMS Providers/First Responder Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (VHFs) Interim Guidance for EMS Systems and 9-1-1 Answering Points (CDC) • Mental Health Toolkit (PADOH) • EMS Education, Information, and Resources (PADOH)
Human Trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Trafficking Webinar Series and Resources (American Hospital Association)
Substance Use Prevention and Harm Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poison Control Center at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia: 1-800-222-1222 • Naloxone resources • Treatment options