



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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Date: May 28, 2026
To: North Carolina Clinicians
From: Zack Moore, MD, State Epidemiologist
Subject: Preparing for World Cup travelers

This memo serves to notify healthcare providers about possible public health concerns related to the 2026 FIFA World Cup and associated events. The 2026 FIFA World Cup games will occur June 11–July 19, 2026, across three host countries—the United States, Mexico, and Canada. An estimated 5 million people are expected to travel internationally and domestically in connection with the tournament.

While there are no tournament games in North Carolina, there will be one exhibition game preceding the tournament and three teams will be using NC as their home base and training location during the tournament.

There may be increased travel related to the World Cup. Healthcare providers should consider travel-related illness when people present for healthcare. Providers should continue to report conditions, outbreaks, unusual presentations, or clusters of disease to your local health department or the communicable disease epidemiologist on call at 919-733-3419. Include any information that may link illness to attendance at a FIFA World Cup event.

Background information

The [2026 FIFA World Cup games](#) will include 48 teams and 104 matches across 16 host cities, over 39 days in June and July 2026. 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 are expected to begin arriving as early as March 2026 to train at [base camp locations](#).

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.

Recommendations/guidance

- Be alert for travel-related illnesses or possible clusters or outbreaks of illness associated with attendance at World Cup Events:
 - Ask patients about any recent travel history.
 - Be alert for signs and symptoms of communicable diseases not typically seen in North Carolina, such as malaria, dengue, typhoid, new world screwworm,

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hemorrhagic fevers, 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.
- Review the CDC [Identify, Isolate, and Inform framework](#) to quickly recognize and manage patients with high-consequence infectious diseases.
- Report any suspected or confirmed [reportable diseases or conditions](#) as well as any suspected outbreaks in a timely fashion.
 - Ensure staff are familiar with immediately reportable conditions, including high-consequence biological agents.
 - Report any suspected or confirmed cases to your [local health department](#) or the communicable disease epidemiologist on call at 919-733-3419
 - Inform the health department of any potential link to the 2026 FIFA World Cup events.

More information

[Travel Health Notices | CDC](#)

[Yellow Book | CDC](#)

[Current Foodborne Outbreaks | CDC](#)

Keeping up to date

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