



WORLD CUP PLANNING 2026

Checklist for Public Health Partners

Planning assumptions:

The 2026 FIFA World Cup games will take place in the US, Mexico, and Canada between June 11 and July 19. **Kansas City's Arrowhead Stadium will host six games between June 16 and July 11**, including four Group Stage games (June 16, 20, 25, and 27), a Round of 32 game (July 3), and a quarter-final game on July 11. Large gatherings of fans will occur at games as well as at watch parties, impromptu parades, and official FIFA FanFest events.

World Cup Schedule

DATE	GROUP	TEAMS
6/16/26	J	Argentina vs Algeria
6/20/2026	E	Curacao vs Ecuador
6/25/2026	F	Tunisia vs Netherlands
6/27/2026	J	Algeria vs Austria
7/3/2026		Group K winner vs. Group D/E/I/J/L third place
7/11/2026		Winner match 95 vs. Winner match 96

Projections for the 2026 World Cup in Kansas City anticipate around **650,000 visitors**, with some expecting even higher numbers due to strong team draws like Argentina and the Netherlands, leading to potentially over a million visitors for major matches and team base camps. These visitors are expected to **stay for an average of 9-10 days**, with a significant portion coming from other countries. **About 54% are anticipated to be international** travelers, staying an average of 9 to 10 days.

While much of the traveler impacts to local public health resources will likely be regional to the Kansas City area, some impacts are likely outside the Kansas City region, especially along significant travel corridors (such as I-70, I-35 or I-49). In addition, other major tourism events taking place in Missouri this year include the Route 66 Festival and several 250th United States anniversary celebrations. **Therefore, these checklist items are offered to all local public health agencies (LPHAs) for consideration in World Cup planning and preparations, as well as other significant travel and tourism-related events that may bring increase visitors to Missouri.**

In addition to the World Cup, several major tourism events may bring a significant number of visitors to Missouri in 2026.

Checklist for LPHAs to consider:

General agency/staff preparedness

- Update on-call lists. Response to issues during the WC will need to be timely and may occur outside of routine business hours. Therefore, having up-to-date call lists with both a primary and secondary contact is imperative.
 - Emergency contacts can be updated by contacting the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) Emergency Response Center at 800-392-0272 (24/7).
 - If the LPHA's primary contact is not available, please ensure there is a secondary point of contact or additional backups to ensure availability after hours.
- Assure all positions are trained, especially for environmental and communicable disease response efforts.
 - LPHA administrators or supervisors should reach out to their Bureau of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention (BCDCP) District Epidemiologists to request guidance or training for the routine surveillance, investigation, and response to communicable diseases for new or undertrained staff.
 - If any temporary or volunteer workers are planned, assure they are appropriately trained.
 - Resources including the Communicable Disease Investigation Reference Manual (CDIRM), Environmental Health Operational Guidelines (EHOG), and the Tuberculosis Case Management Manual are now available on the LPHA Info Hub.
 - Both the CDIRM and EHOG include a map of regional DHSS contacts for training and questions.
- Consider working with staff to plan their leave time around the World Cup games/events.
- Consider plans for after-hours and weekend response needs, especially around game and event dates.
- If your agency plans to have Public Health staff physically present at specific games/events planned, please share plans with your DHSS BCDCP District Epidemiologist staff regarding those staff functions.
- Review your agency's public health emergency preparedness and response plans and capabilities, including procedures, trainings, equipment, and other resources.
- For additional questions or concerns regarding World Cup planning, please contact the appropriate DHSS bureau or program or reach out to the DHSS Emergency Response Center at 800-392-0272 (24/7).

Environmental public health preparedness

During the World Cup, it is anticipated that most environmental activities will likely be complaint-driven. To reduce this, early food safety regulatory activities are important.

Retail Food Safety:

- Prior to the World Cup events, complete inspection of all retail food inventory per risk-based prioritization.
 - Inspections on food establishments should be conducted in accordance with standards within EHOG.
 - Special attention should be given to food establishments that have historically been non-compliant during inspections or associated with foodborne outbreaks.
 - Develop strategies for managing mobile food trucks and pop-up vendors.
- Consider additional communication and messaging to food establishments about the importance of maintaining food safety practices.
- Ensure staff who will be involved with foodborne illness outbreak investigation and response efforts are familiar with appropriate procedures and resources.

- Maintain robust communication with Bureau of Environmental Health Services (BEHS) District Staff as needed for technical assistance or support.

Many lodging facilities in the region will be full to capacity at a level not usually seen. To reduce issues and be available to respond to the issues that will come up, early lodging safety/sanitation regulatory activities are important.

Lodging Safety/Sanitation:

- Annual inspections on lodging inspections should be conducted by May 31 if possible. This will allow for issues to be identified and corrected prior to the event.
- Consider how your agency will address complaints regarding short-term rentals, which are not regulated at the state level like lodging establishments. (i.e. VRBO, Airbnb, etc).

Communicable disease preparedness

- Ensure staff who will be involved with communicable disease response efforts are familiar with appropriate procedures and resources.
 - DHSS-BCDCP CDIRM (online)
 - American Public Health Assn. (APHA) Control of Communicable Diseases Manual (CCDM)
 - American Academy of Pediatrics Red Book
 - CDC Yellow Book (online) for information on conditions in specific international locations.
- Be prepared to respond to trends in surveillance data or other triggers in coordination with DHSS.
 - DHSS is determining how to assist in assuring situational awareness of important case reporting, syndromic surveillance, wastewater surveillance or other important information in the form of a dashboard, SitRep, or other appropriate method. More details will be forthcoming.
 - Consider that media/social media reports may or may not be a source of useful information for public health action.
- Consider how case investigation for travelers may be accomplished.
 - Factors may include language barriers, cases/contacts that are travelers staying in a hotel or short-term rental, increased volume, need for isolation or quarantine of travelers.
 - Consider cross-training of staff if volume exceeds usual capacity.
 - Coordinate plans with the BCDCP epidemiologists in your region for technical assistance or support.
- Be prepared to address routine case investigations as well as typical outbreak investigations in the context of significant additional travelers.
 - For example, ensure your agency is familiar with how to order, handle, and store MMR vaccine in case of measles case(s) response either due to or concurrent with significant visitor/traveler pressures.
- Be familiar with specimen collection and shipping procedures.
 - Consider training on packaging and shipping of infectious substances and hazardous materials. Information and resources available through SPHL; training may be available also.
- Maintain access to adequate specimen collection supplies.
 - The Missouri State Public Health Laboratory (MSPHL) will pre-position specimen collection kits in pre-selected locations within and around the Kansas City Metro area, as well as other key locations around the state, to support potential testing needs during the World Cup events and testing needs for travelers statewide. (Note: Additional guidance for selected locations will be forthcoming from BCDCP and MSPHL.)
 - World Cup supplies can be re-ordered by contacting the MSPHL Central Services Unit at 573-751-4830 or by submitting [the online form](#).

- For additional questions or concerns regarding communicable diseases, please contact the BCDCP epidemiologists in your region or the BCDCP mainline (573-751-6113). To speak with a BCDCP epidemiologist for concerns afterhours/weekends contact the DHSS Emergency Response Center at 800-392-0272 (24/7).
- If your LPHA plans enhanced communicable disease surveillance specifically for games, please share and/or coordinate with the BCDCP epidemiologists in your region.
- Consider locations for isolation/quarantine of World Cup travelers should that become necessary.

Courier needs

- Review courier schedule on MSPHL page for current schedule. Heavier traffic around game days during the week could result in delays to pickups on June 16, June 25 and July 3 (holiday route).
- MSPHL is in conversations with courier vendor to bring back courier stops on Friday starting in June and going through the end of July for stops at LPHAs. There are still numerous hospitals stops available on Friday and Sunday.
- MSPHL has also confirmed the courier's readiness for emergency pickups outside of normal business hours if necessary and those requests should begin with their regional epidemiologist to evaluate the need before connecting with MSPHL.

Connections with local hospitals, FQHCs, EMS

Especially for Region A LPHAs

- Consider connecting with hospitals, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), and/or other clinics in your jurisdiction to discuss their World Cup related plans.
- Consider connecting with your regional EMS Mutual Aid coordinator to understand EMS plans regarding World Cup related plans.
- If you are in a county served by the Mid-America Regional Council, participate in regional healthcare coalition and/or KC2026 planning meetings to understand World Cup public health and healthcare planning.
- Remind contacts of the importance of continuing to use routine processes for the reporting to public health of communicable diseases or environmental concerns.

Language services

During the World Cup, there will likely be many travelers with limited English proficiency.

- Plan for travelers with limited English proficiency that may need to communicate in: Spanish, Arabic, French, Dutch, German, or Portuguese.
 - Consider translating key documents into appropriate languages in advance.
 - Check with DHSS programs that may have resources in other languages.
 - Consider the appropriateness of apps like Google Translate or similar.
 - Local response agencies in the Kansas City region may be utilizing "Pocketalk" devices.
- Language interpretation line services are available through the statewide contract to Cooperative Procurement Program members.
 - [Contract](#)
 - [Cooperative Procurement Program](#)

STI preparedness activities

- Ensure adequate stock of risk reduction supplies (condoms, lubricant, etc.) and develop plan to make these supplies available to the public. If needed, order additional supplies from DHSS.
- Have a plan to communicate with travelers who do not speak English. DHSS has some brochures and other information available in Spanish.
- Determine how your agency will test/treat travelers that may present with symptoms of STIs.
 - Encourage presumptive treatment and testing
- Bicillin availability is still limited. Encourage conserving stock for pregnant women and utilizing doxycycline for syphilis treatment.
 - Because of this, keep an adequate stock of doxycycline on hand.
- Review medication inventory and order any needed items from DHSS early enough to ensure delivery prior to start of games.

Opioids and other illicit drugs

Travelers may experiment with drugs they are not used to and may have unexpected reactions needing intervention. Also, additional or different illicit drugs may be brought into the region during the event time. Contaminated drugs can also create public health and safety concerns.

- Ensure adequate supply of Narcan/naloxone is in stock or accessible.
- Ensure adequate supply of Fentanyl Test strips is in stock or accessible.
- Overdose prevention related Information and resources are available through the [Time2Act](#) website.

Extreme weather preparedness

- Be familiar with where cooling stations are located and consider how to make those known and useful for travelers, as well as how increased traveler pressures may impact access for local sensitive populations.
 - [Find or add a cooling center.](#)
- Consider how storms/tornado public health response efforts account for increased traveler pressures.

