



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

P.O. Box 570, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570 | Phone: 573-751-6400 | FAX: 573-751-6010
RELAY MISSOURI for Hearing and Speech Impaired and Voice dial: 711



Sarah Willson
Director

Mike Kehoe
Governor

February 17, 2026

Dear LPHA Directors and Administrators,

The FIFA World Cup is the largest sporting event in the world—and this summer it is coming to Missouri. The 2026 FIFA World Cup games will take place in the US, Mexico, and Canada between June 13th and July 14th. Kansas City's Arrowhead Stadium will host six games between June 16th and July 11th, including four Group Stage games (June 16th, 20th, 25th, and 27th), Round 12 games (July 3rd), and the quarter-final game on July 11th. Large gatherings of fans will occur at games as well as at watch parties, parades, and official FIFA events. Over 500,000 soccer fans are expected to attend the tournament. This event is located in Kansas City, but St. Louis will be hosting practice fields for these teams during the event. This event will have an effect on Missouri as a whole.

As we prepare for an unprecedented influx of international travelers and national visitors, lodging comes to the forefront in our preparations as these individuals will need safe and healthy places to stay. As you know, Local Public Health Agency Environmental Health Specialists and the inspections they conduct are key to this. In a normal year, annual lodging inspections are completed by June 1 and follow up inspections are completed by August 31. This year, the bureau is asking our Local Public Health Agencies consider conducting annual lodging inspections as early as possible. Completing annual and follow inspections by May 31st will allow facilities time to correct issues and ensure safety and sanitation controls are in place prior to the event. This should further help your staff avoid complications from trying to inspect hotels with no vacant rooms.

We also ask that your Environmental Health Specialists place a special emphasis on working with your retail food establishments. Providing meals to an additional half-million individuals will put these facilities' capacities to the test. Food safety will be paramount. We ask the inspectors stress the importance of proper food handling and handwashing at these facilities.

Our District Environmental Health Specialists will be following up with your Environmental Health Specialists on this issue in the coming weeks.

If you have questions or concerns, you can reach me at dusty.johnson@health.mo.gov.

As always, I appreciate your consideration in the matter as well as your commitment to promoting and protecting public health.

Sincerely,

Dusty Johnson, Chief
Bureau of Environmental Health Services

PROMOTING HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' vision is optimal health and safety for all Missourians, in all communities, for life.