

HEALTH ADVISORY

2026 FIFA World Cup

June 11, 2026

This advisory is intended for emergency medicine, family medicine, infectious disease and infection control, internal medicine, OB/GYN, and pediatric clinicians. Please distribute as appropriate.

Key Message:

In the past six months there have been multiple communicable disease risks both in the U.S. and across the globe. At the same time, we anticipate increased domestic and international travel through San Mateo County in the upcoming summer months for the FIFA World Cup and routine summertime travel.

Ensuring appropriate infection control policies and practices are in place, expanding the differential to consider non-endemic diseases and bioterrorism agents, and routinely eliciting and documenting patient's travel history and participation in mass gatherings will be particularly important this summer. Please include the term "World Cup" in medical record documentation where relevant to help local health jurisdictions investigate potential clusters of illness.

Background:

In the past six months there have been multiple communicable disease risks both in the U.S. and across the globe. This includes ongoing [domestic measles outbreaks](#) and two high-consequence pathogen outbreaks ([Andes virus](#) and [Ebola disease](#) [a viral hemorrhagic fever caused by Bundibugyo virus in this outbreak]).

For the most up-to-date information on the current Ebola disease outbreak, visit [CDC's Ebola Outbreak: Current Situation](#) web page and see the [CDC Health Advisory](#). The risk of spread to the United States is considered low at this time and, as of June 10, no suspected, probable, or confirmed Ebola disease cases related to this outbreak have been reported in the United States.

At the same time, we anticipate increased domestic and international travel through San Mateo County in the upcoming summer months as a result of the FIFA World Cup and routine summertime travel. FIFA World Cup 2026 matches will be taking place at Levi's Stadium in the city of Santa Clara on June 13, 16, 19, 22, 25 and July 1. Related mass gatherings in the Bay Area will begin on June 10.

Increased travel, along with associated mass gatherings, increases the risk of importation and transmission of endemic and non-endemic communicable diseases. The World Cup events may also be targets for bioterrorism or violence. Finally, given that these events are occurring in peak temperature periods, heat-related illness is also of concern.





Recommendations for healthcare providers during the summer months of June, July, and August:

1. Ensure appropriate infection control policies and practices are in place to appropriately isolate an individual with an airborne illness (e.g., measles) or a high-consequence pathogen (e.g., viral hemorrhagic fever) until they can be transferred to a higher level of care. All hospitals should maintain the capability to rapidly identify, isolate, and manage a suspected viral hemorrhagic fever patient for up to 24 – 72 hours.
2. Expand differential diagnoses to consider non-endemic diseases (e.g., viral hemorrhagic fevers, some arboviral diseases, typhoid) and bioterrorism agents (biological, chemical, or radiological).
3. Routinely elicit and document patients' recent travel history (both international and domestic). In individuals with history of travel to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), South Sudan, or Uganda in the previous 21 days, see Ebola disease section below. Check [CDC's Traveler's Health](#) site for country-specific disease concerns and current travel health notices.
4. Routinely elicit and document patient attendance at the World Cup or any related events to help local health jurisdictions investigate potential clusters of illness.
 - For patients who attended any of the World Cup games at Levi's Stadium, include the term "World Cup" in their medical record.
 - For patients who attended events related to the World Cup, include the term "World Cup" as well as the name and location of the events in their medical record.
5. Report any suspected or confirmed reportable diseases and conditions, clusters of disease, or presentations consistent with biological terrorism. Indicators of disease outbreaks or possible biological terrorism include:
 - An unusual temporal or geographic clustering of illness (e.g., people who attended the same public event or gathering).
 - Increase in serious lower respiratory illness with negative tests for common bacteria and viruses.
 - Patients presenting with clinical signs and symptoms that suggest an infectious disease outbreak (e.g., >2 persons presenting with an unexplained febrile illness associated with sepsis, pneumonia, respiratory failure, rash, or botulism-like syndrome with flaccid muscle paralysis, especially if occurring in otherwise healthy persons).
 - An unusual age distribution for common diseases (e.g., an increase in chickenpox-like illness in adult patients).
 - Single cases of disease due to uncommon, non-indigenous agents in patients with no history suggesting an explanation for illness.
 - Multiple cases of acute flaccid paralysis with prominent bulbar palsies, suggestive of a release of botulinum toxin.
 - Continue to follow all routine Title 17 reporting requirements. Visit [our website](#) for more information on what is reportable and how to report to County Health.



Recommendations for healthcare providers for suspect Ebola disease cases:

1. Clinicians should suspect Ebola disease (a viral hemorrhagic fever caused by Bundibugyo virus in the current outbreak) in a patient who has traveled to DRC, South Sudan, or Uganda in the last 21 days, AND has compatible symptoms (e.g., fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, fatigue, loss of appetite, gastrointestinal symptoms, or unexplained bleeding), AND has reported any of the following epidemiologically compatible risk factors within the 21 days before symptom onset:
 - Had direct contact with a symptomatic person with suspected or confirmed Ebola disease (alive or dead), or with any objects contaminated by their body fluids.
 - Experienced a breach in infection prevention and control precautions that resulted in the potential for contact with body fluids of a patient with suspected or confirmed Ebola disease.
 - Participated in any of the following activities **while in an Ebola-affected area**:
 - Had contact with someone who was sick or died, or with any objects contaminated by their body fluids.
 - Attended or participated in funeral rituals, including preparing bodies for funeral or burial.
 - Visited or worked in a healthcare facility or laboratory.
 - Had contact with bats.

The list of Ebola-affected areas may change; refer to [CDC's Ebola](#) site for updated information.

2. Immediately isolate the individual in accordance with [infection prevention standards](#) for viral hemorrhagic fevers.
3. Immediately notify San Mateo County Health of suspect Ebola disease cases by calling (650) 573-2346:
 - Office hours (Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.): Ask for the Communicable Disease (CD) Control & Prevention Program.
 - After hours: Follow the prompts to page the on-call Health Officer.

The CD Control Program will help support assessment and coordinate any needed testing and next steps.

For more detailed recommendations, please review the [CDC Health Advisory](#) and [CDPH Health Alert](#) on this topic.



Resources:

1. [Reportable Diseases and Conditions](#) (San Mateo County Health)
2. [Health Advisory: Ebola Disease Outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
3. [Health Alert: Ebola Disease Outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda](#) (California Department of Public Health)
4. [Ebola Outbreak: Current Situation](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
5. [Information for Traveler's Returning from Ebola-Affected Areas](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
6. [Traveler's Health](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
7. [Travel Health Notices](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
8. [Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
9. [Measles Cases and Outbreaks](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
10. [Andes Virus Outbreak on a Cruise Ship: Current Situation](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
11. [Current Andes Hantavirus Situation](#) (California Department of Public Health)
12. [Report Biting Mosquitoes](#) (San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District)

The Communicable Disease Control Program is available to help meet the reporting needs of, and answer questions for, San Mateo County clinicians. To report a disease or outbreak, please call 650-573-2346, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, or fax a Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR) to 650-573-2919. You may download an electronic copy of the CMR at smchealth.org/cmcr. Web-based reporting via CalREDIE is also available and accounts may be requested at <https://calrediehelp.powerappsportals.us/>. Non-urgent questions and/or general inquiries may be directed to SMCCDControl@smcgov.org.

Categories of urgency levels:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate attention.