



**Department
of Health**

2026 Summer Mass Gathering Events: Public Health and Medical Planning Efforts and Considerations

Michael Etzel, CEM

May 27, 2026 | Capital District HTC | Virtual

Objectives

- Provide situational awareness of Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup, International Naval Review/Sail250, and other 2026 Summer Special Events occurring across New York State.
- Provide an overview of state and local planning efforts related to public health and medical threats and hazards.
- Identify planning considerations for partners for Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Coalition (HEPC) partners



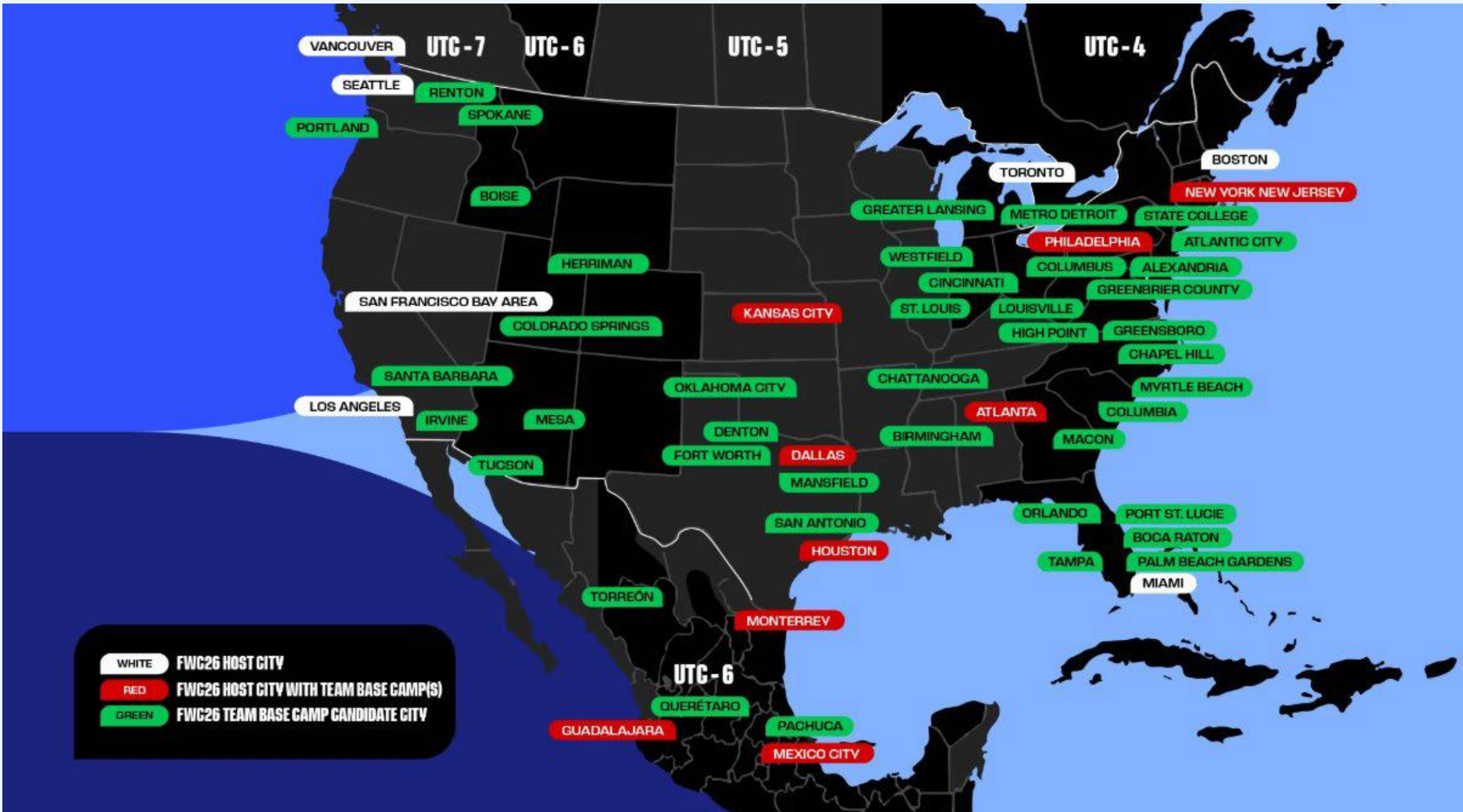
Events Overview



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2026 FIFA World Cup Overview

- FIFA World Cup: Worldwide soccer tournament held every four years in a rotating host nation(s). This year's tournament will have 48 teams divided into 12 groups of four, with each team playing three "Group Stage Matches". Single elimination begins at the Round of 32 (comprised of the top two teams in each group and the eight best third place teams) through the Final.
- Event Dates: June 11 – July 19, 2026
- Footprint: 104 matches, 3 countries (USA, Canada, and Mexico), 16 host cities (Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Miami, New York/New Jersey, Philadelphia, San Francisco Bay Area, Seattle, Toronto, Vancouver, Mexico City, Guadalajara, and Monterrey)
- Expecting a tourism surge of 2 million people coming into the New York/New Jersey region throughout the duration of the tournament, traveling between host cities and nations



2026 FIFA World Cup Overview, Cont.

- New York/New Jersey are hosting 8 matches:
 - Group Stage:
 - Saturday June 13: Brazil vs Morocco at 6pm
 - Tuesday June 16: France vs Senegal at 3pm
 - Monday June 22: Norway vs Senegal at 8pm
 - Thursday June 25: Ecuador vs Germany at 4pm
 - Saturday June 27: Panama vs England at 5pm
 - Round of 32:
 - Tuesday June 30: TBD vs TBD at 5pm
 - Round of 16:
 - Sunday July 5: TBD vs TBD at 4pm
 - World Cup Final:
 - Sunday July 19: TBD vs TBD at 3pm



Friday, June 12, 2026 - Group Stage
(Canada's Opening Match)

Wednesday, June 17, 2026 - Group Stage

Saturday, June 20, 2026 - Group Stage

Tuesday, June 23, 2026 - Group Stage

Friday, June 26, 2026 - Group Stage

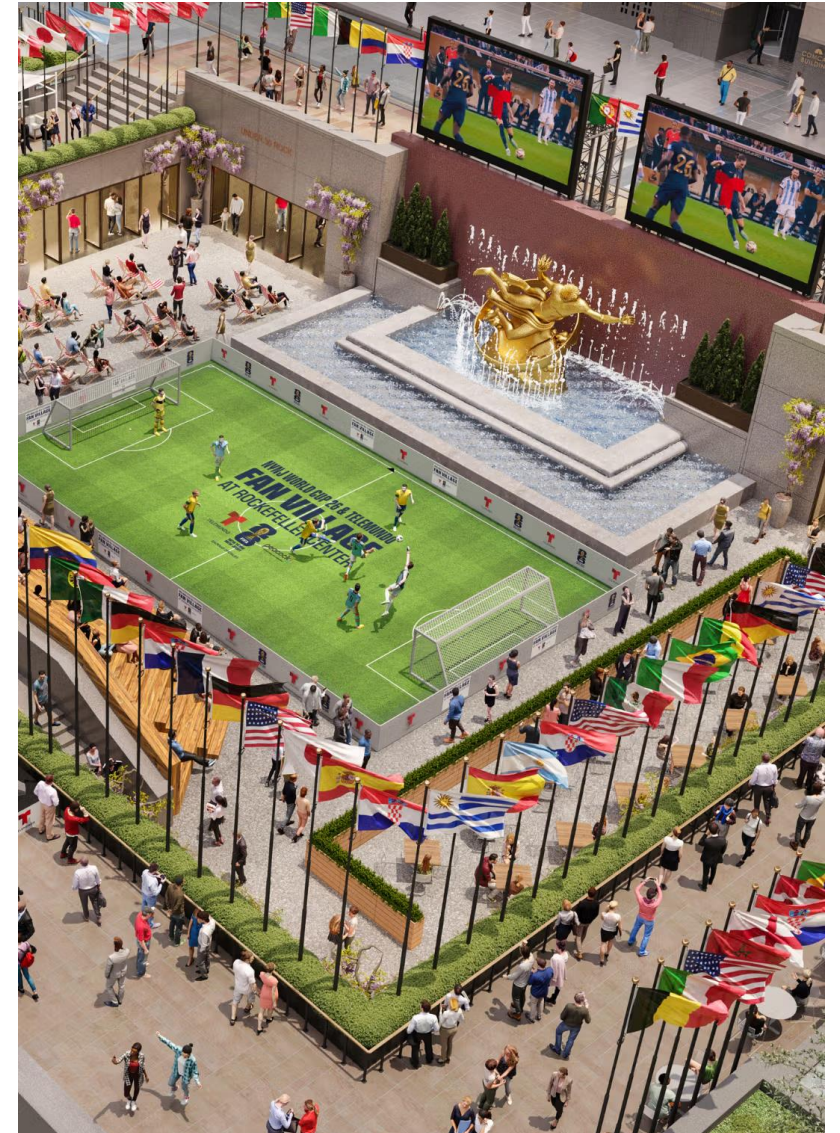
Thursday, July 2, 2026 - Round of 32



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NYS Fan Events

- FIFA, its sponsors, and NYS are sponsoring numerous events and “fan zones” across the state.
- New York City: USTA Billie Jean King Tennis Center (Queens – 6/11 to 6/27), Rockefeller Center (Manhattan – 7/6 to 7/19), Bronx Terminal Market (Bronx – 6/13 to 6/14), Brooklyn Bridge Park (Brooklyn – 6/13 to 7/19), Staten Island University Hospital Community Park (Staten Island – 6/29 to 7/2)
- Suffolk County: Stony Brook University (6/12)
- Westchester County: Kensico Dam Plaza (7/19)
- Buffalo: Silo City (6/12, 6/25, 6/26, 7/2, 7/11) and Canalside (6/12, 6/19, 6/25)



NYS Fan Events, Cont.

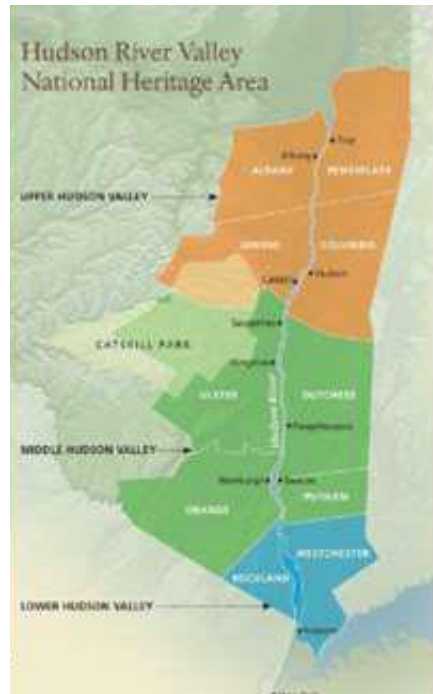
- Albany: Jennings Landing (6/12, 6/19, 6/25),
- Amsterdam (Montgomery County): Shuttleworth Park (6/19)
- Binghamton: Washington Street (6/12), Recreation Park (6/19), and Mirabito Stadium (6/25)
- Rochester: East & Alex Entertainment District (6/12)
- Niagara Falls: Old Falls Street (7/19)
- Schroon Lake (Essex County): The Pavilion (7/19)
- Addition locations receiving Community World Cup Grant funding: Troy, Potsdam, Syracuse



International Naval Review/Sail250

Part of the nationwide celebration of the Semiquincentennial anniversary of America's founding!

- Ships will be parading up from the Mid-Atlantic and will continue to Boston after stopping in New York
- Includes a Tall Ship visit up the Hudson all the way to Albany



International Naval Review (INR)

A historic gathering of 54 U.S. and Foreign naval vessels, showcasing international maritime partnership on a global stage.

Sail 4th 250: Parade of Sail

Led by the USCGC Eagle, featuring 43 Class A and B Tall Ships from 37+ countries across New York Harbor.

International Aerial Review (IAR)

Led by the Blue Angels, featuring a flyover of 75-125 aircraft spanning from Verrazzano to George Washington Bridge.

Macy's Fireworks 50th Anniversary

Celebrated with displays on the East River and Hudson River



01 - 03 July

- Arrival of Tall Ships and Global Naval Vessels.
- Class B Parade in East River (03 July).
- Times Square Ball Drop (03 July)

04 July

- International Naval Review 250.
- Parade of Sail.
- Aerial Review.
- Macy's Fireworks.

05 -07 July

- FIFA World Cup Match 91 Round of 16 (05July)
- Hudson River Parade of Ships to Albany.
- Fleet Week Events.
- Ticker Day Parade (06 July)

08 - 09 July

- Fleet Week Events Conclude
- Ships Depart.



- DDG
- ~505 ft.



Sweden - Gladen



Netherlands - HNLMS Urania



France - Belle Poule



Brazil - Cisne Branco



Argentina - Libertad



Romania - Micrea



Ecuador - Guayas



Germany - Gorch Fock



- Frigate
- ~436 ft.



Mexico - ARM Cuauhtemoc



United States - Eagle



Peru - Union



Poland - Dar Mlodziezy

Viewing Areas/Berthing Locations

Known Berthing and Public Viewing Areas:

Manhattan

- Governors Island (July 4)
- Terminal –Pier 88, Pier 90, Pier 92
- Intrepid Pier 86
- South Street Seaport Pier 36
- Harlem Pier
- Midtown 39thSt. Pier
- Battery Park Pier
- Wall Street Pier

Staten Island

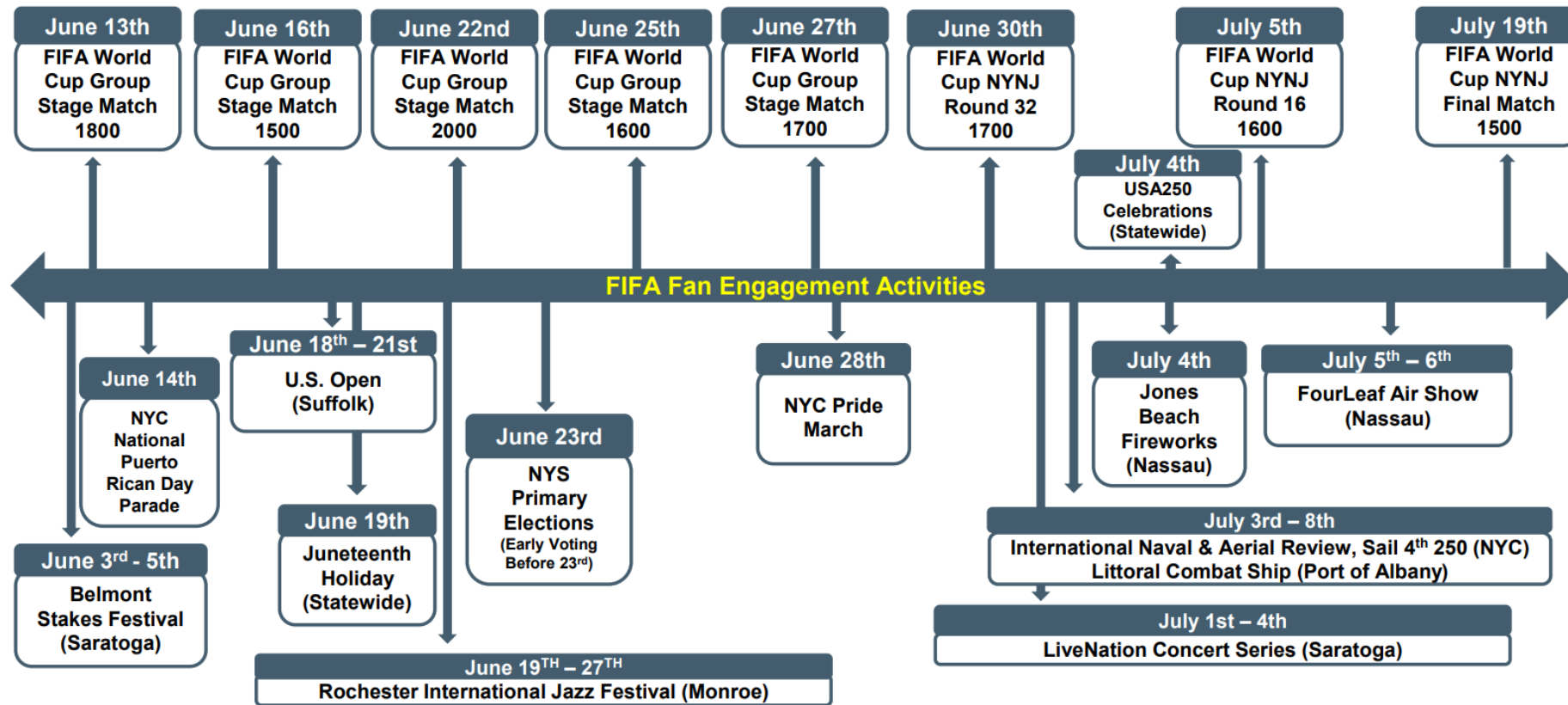
- Bay St (SI Ferry Terminal)
- Homeport Pier

Brooklyn

- Brooklyn Pier 4 (Brooklyn Army Terminal)
- Brooklyn Bridge Park

Additional Events

- Ticonderoga 250, Old Fort Niagara Siege 1759! (July 3 – July 5), Niagara County America 250 (Aug 1 – Aug 2), and numerous events, firework shows, and re-enactments celebrating America's 250th anniversary across the state!



Threat and Hazard Environment



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Threat Assessment

- High level threat considerations: Domestic Violent Extremists (DVEs), Homegrown Violent Extremists (HVEs), and Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs) have a history of targeting sporting events and mass gatherings:
- Vehicle rammings, firearms, Improvised Homemade Explosives (IEDs), and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) have historically been used.
- The political atmosphere between nations or teams may foster spontaneous First Amendment-protected activities, public gatherings, and potentially increase the likelihood of criminal activity and/or threats of violence targeting these events.

Threat Assessment, Cont.

- Concerns about “Hooliganism”, history of soccer related violence and terrorism:
- Religion, race, class, and politics have had impacts on hooliganism and violence at matches. Some supporter groups intersect with extremist ideologies.
- Pyrotechnics, flares, marches, spontaneous gatherings and rallying at team hotels are part of fan culture.
- Brazil vs Morocco: Fans during the 2025 Club World Cup staged unauthorized mass gatherings and smuggled pyrotechnics into the stadium.

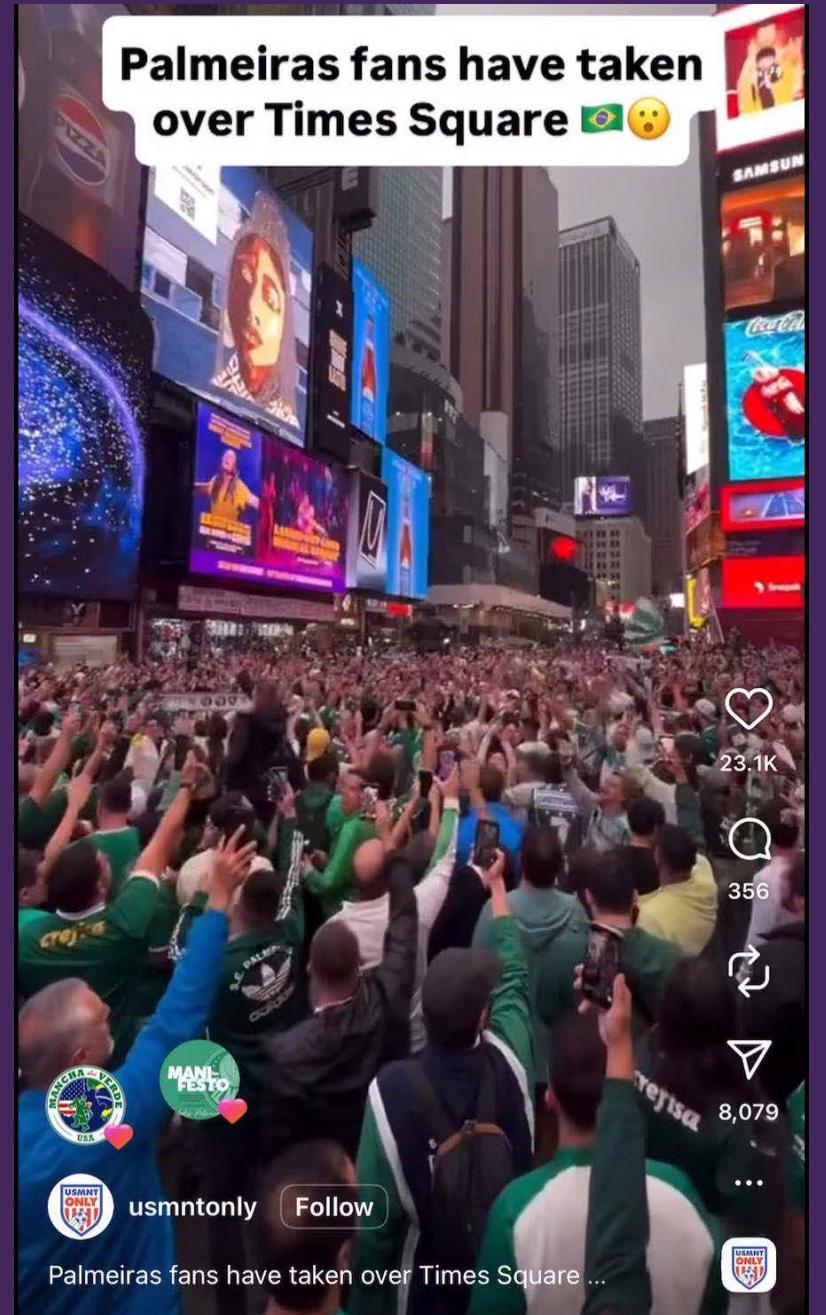
Why does all this matter? Potential for mass casualty/mass fatality incidents, burn surge, difficulty transporting through/around unauthorized gatherings, heat related illness, etc.



Photos sourced from: "Safety, Security, and Service: Preparing for the FIFA World Cup 2026" by GB Jones, Chief Safety and Security Officer, FIFA WC 2026, IAEM 73rd Annual Conference & EMEX. Used with permission.



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Public Health and Medical Hazards

Medical Surge:

- Fan Clashes
- Mass Casualty Incidents
- Infectious Disease Outbreak

Cascading Impacts:

- Disruption to Transportation Systems
- Civil Demonstrations
- Resource Limitations

Other Impacts:

- Alcohol and Drug use/abuse
- International Attendees
 - Language access, unfamiliarity with US healthcare system, follow-up contact, cultural insensitivities, etc.
- Health Care Strain
- Human Trafficking

Planning Efforts



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NYSDOH Planning Efforts

- Creation of eight (8) Work Groups across the Department to develop planning objectives, performance indicators, and implementation strategies:
 - Health and Public Health Advisories
 - Communicable Disease
 - Sexually Transmitted Infection Prevention
 - Overdose Prevention
 - Environmental Health
 - Emergency Medical Services
 - Health Promotion and Partner Engagement
 - Hospital Surge

NYSDOH Planning Efforts, Cont.

- While work group strategies are still being developed, some ongoing efforts include:
 - Local Health Department (LHD) outreach
 - Community partners, associations, and provider engagement
 - Public health messaging (provider and public outreach)
 - Distribution of education materials
 - Part 18 Permitting
 - EMS Mutual Aid
- The Office of Health Emergency Preparedness and Division of State EMS are currently assessing staffing patterns at events across the state. This includes field support and Emergency Operation Center/Joint Operation Center operations.

State Partners Efforts

- Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services:
 - Office of Fire Prevention and Control: Issues permits for fireworks and pyrotechnics on state property, assist local hazmat teams with deployable Hazmat resources, and manage New York State Fire Mobilization and Mutual Aid Plan
 - Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications: Supporting FIFA World Cup 2026, America's 250th, and FourLeaf Air Show at Jones Beach. Will support backup communication systems for the Javits Center Joint Operations Center for July 4
 - Office of Emergency Management: State EOC activation June 10 – July 20. OEM Executive staff host a regular Statewide Special Events Coordination Call. Developing NYS Event Action Plan with input from state agencies.
 - Office of Counter Terrorism: Coordinating with NYSP in assigning Special Event Assessment Ratings to events. Deployment of vehicle barriers for mass gatherings

State Partner Efforts, Cont.

- Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA): Civil Support Team (CST) support for events
- Across All Agencies:
 - Identifying staffing
 - Information sharing (internal and external partners)
 - Maintain regular day-to-day operations



Local and Stakeholder Planning Efforts

- New York City
 - Approximately 17 work groups including a Health and Medical State and city partners meet weekly
 - Planning emphasis on July 3 – 8 and match days
- Greater New York Hospital Association
 - FIFA Summits: Burn Surge, Trauma, and Decon
 - Briefings, Trainings, and Exercises
- United State Armed Forces
 - Javits Center Command Center (6/24 – 7/9)
- Medical Cell 24/7 staffing
- Event Coverage Medical
- FIFA Host Committee
 - Three (3) SME Groups: Heat Mitigation, Medical Event Coverage, and Medical Surge
- NYC Health and Hospitals
 - Region 2 RESPTC Preparedness
 - Training – Project ECHO series
- CDC, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)

Planning Considerations for HEPC Partners



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Planning Considerations

- Emergency Plans
- Training
- Situational Awareness and Risk Communication
- Public Health Reporting
- Cascading Impacts
- Staffing
- Be Aware and Communicate

Resources



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Resources

- NYS DOH:
 - [Communicable Disease Reporting](#)
 - [Global Health Updates](#)
- Region 2 RESPTC Project ECHO Webinars: <https://www.r2resptc.org/tools.php>
- Register for the last FIFA Preparedness Webinar on Thursday May 28 12-1pm [here](#)
- CDC Safety for Soccer Fans: <https://www.cdc.gov/soccer/index.html>
- GNYHA FIFA World Cup Resource Page: <https://www.gnyha.org/topic/fifa-world-cup/>
- FIFA Weekly Intelligence Round Up ([Sign Up Here](#))
- DHSES Emergency and Weather Alerts: <333111>



DHA Public Health AFHSD Integrated Biosurveillance (IB) Branch 2026 FIFA World Cup (11 JUN - 19 JUL)



U.S. Host Cities & Most Prevalent Diseases from Visiting Countries

Select Map

Legend

- Host City

Disease Categories

- Food and Water-borne Diseases
- Respiratory Infections
- Vector-borne Diseases
- Other Bacterial Infections

Importation Risk



DRC: Democratic Republic of the Congo
KSA: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Prevalent diseases are those most commonly reported from each country during the APR to JUL timeframe 2023-2025

For more information, contact IB Branch at dha.ncr.health-surv.list.ib-alert-response@health.mil

Further information about the 2026 FIFA World Cup is available in the [DHA Health Surveillance Explorer](#) (CAC required)


UNCLASSIFIED

Version 2 (17 APR 2026)
Version 1 (26 MAR 2026)



Resources, Cont.

- Best Practice Documents:
 - CDC Interim Considerations for Advanced Preparedness for Potential Public Health Threats Connected to FIFA World Cup 2026
 - NJ Health 2026 FIFA World Cup Planning Considerations – Health & Medical
 - NYC Health 2026 FIFA World Cup Planning Considerations For Health Care



Safety and Security
Weekly Intelligence Roundup

The Weekly Intelligence Roundup delivers key global football insights to safety and security stakeholders involved in the FIFA World Cup 2026. The content herein is provided for situational awareness purposes only and does not represent the official position or views of FIFA, nor should it be construed as such. For questions or information requests, contact the FIFA26 SEC Intelligence Team at sec.intel@fifa2026.org.

Geopolitical Updates

Notable geopolitical and current affairs updates from select qualified nations as they relate to the tournament security environment

- **DR Congo:** On 18 May, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced a 30-day suspension of entry into the United States for foreign nationals who have recently traveled to Ebola-affected areas in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo), Uganda, and South Sudan. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Department of State guidance stated that travelers from DR Congo may also be required to demonstrate that they spent 21 consecutive days outside the country prior to entry into the United States. The outbreak remains concentrated in eastern DR Congo and parts of Uganda, with the World Health Organization reporting at least 600 suspected cases and 139 suspected fatalities. While there have been no indications of sustained Ebola transmission in the United States, Canada, or Mexico, evolving travel restrictions could create logistical challenges for teams, officials, and supporters traveling from affected regions. DR Congo plays 17 June in Houston; 23 June in Guadalajara; and 27 June in Atlanta.
- **Iran:** On 16 May, FIFA Secretary General Mattias Grafström led a delegation to Istanbul for high-level discussions with FFIRI President Mehdi Taj and senior officials regarding Iran's participation in FWC26. Topics included operational and logistical preparations for the tournament. Grafström described the meeting as constructive and confirmed FIFA provided responses to all 10 points raised by the Iranian federation. Iran plays 15 June in Los Angeles; 21 June in Los Angeles; and 26 June in Seattle.

NYC 2026 FIFA WORLD CUP PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS FOR HEALTH CARE

This document provides an overview of known information about the 2026 FIFA World Cup and America's 250 Anniversary events in NYC, reviews potential public health risks, and reviews planning considerations for health care partners. This information is based on the available intelligence as of April 2026 and is subject to change.

FIFA WORLD CUP OVERVIEW

The FIFA World Cup is the largest football (more commonly known as soccer in the United States) competition in the world. **The 2026 FIFA World Cup is being hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico, and will be held from June 11 to July 19, 2026.** It is an unprecedented sporting event with no easy comparison in terms of size, duration, nations, and fans involved, besides the Olympics. This is the **largest World Cup to date** in terms of scope (3 host countries, 16 host cities), number of teams (48), number of games (104), and length (39 days). Projections from various sources estimate 1 to 6 million international visitors to the United States. **New York/New Jersey is one of 12 American Host Cities, for 8 games, including the final match, which is anticipated to draw 2 million people to the area.**

All local games are played at **MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey**. [The schedule](#) for these games is below.



NYC will have many organized [fan zone](#) (locations that offer immersive experiences and live match viewing) and community celebrations throughout the World Cup. Not all locations have been announced but currently anticipated sites include **Louis Armstrong Stadium (at the Billie Jean King Tennis Center), Rockefeller Center, the Javits Center, Brooklyn Bridge Park, Central Park, and FerryHawks Stadium (Staten Island)**. No teams have base camps in NYC (where teams reside and train between games) for the Group Stage, but this could change for later games. Very Important People (VIPs) will be visiting and lodging in NYC so expect traffic disruptions throughout the tournament, especially around game dates.

AMERICA 250 AND INTERNATIONAL NAVAL REVIEW (INR)

July 4, 2026, is the United States' 250th Birthday! Many events are scheduled in NYC to celebrate the country's Semiquincentennial. This year is the **50th Anniversary of the Macy's Fourth of July Fireworks**, with fireworks planned for both Hudson and East Rivers.

KEY PLANNING TAKEAWAYS

- The 2026 World Cup may present a range of public health risks due to its duration, surge of visitors, large-scale concurrent events, national and international security implications and seasonal hazards (e.g., heat).
 - Health care and emergency medical services (EMS) communities should apply an all-hazards planning approach and ensure existing plans are reviewed and updated as needed.
 - Health and medical entities should review training and exercise needs to ensure staff are familiar with relevant plans and procedures (e.g., disease reporting).
- Health care facilities and providers should maintain situational awareness by signing up for **health alerts and emergency notifications**.
- NYC: [Health Alert Network](#) and [Notiv NYC](#)
 - NJ: [Health Alert Network](#)

OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS

Considerations	Potential Public Health Risks
Large Sporting Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energetic celebrations; potentially aggressive mood, violent fan clashes • Blast injuries, burns (caused by pyrotechnics, incendiary devices, etc.) • Crowd surges and stampedes • Alcohol and drug use and abuse, overdose emergencies
Travel-associated cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher risk of communicable disease spread and outbreaks (e.g., sexually transmitted infections, respiratory infections, diarrheal diseases) • Travel-associated infections and introduction of non-endemic diseases <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vaccine preventable diseases (e.g., measles) ○ Special pathogens (e.g., Lassa fever) ○ Mosquito/vector-borne (e.g., malaria, dengue) • Risk of food-borne illness from new and unregulated food vendors
Extreme Weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dehydration, heat stroke, heat exhaustion, especially during periods of extreme heat • Heavy rains and flash flooding can occur with little warning during summer months • Impaired air quality, especially in the context of extreme heat or wildfires elsewhere • Exacerbation of chronic illness from (exposure to) very hot weather/impaired air quality
International Attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfamiliarity with U.S. health care system, insurance limitations, and payment issues • Cultural sensitivities and translation needs • Follow-up contact and care including case investigations and contact tracing • Unknown immunity of visitors and potential communicable disease spread through unvaccinated travelers
Health Care Strain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased ED, inpatient, and outpatient volume • Transport disruptions impacting emergency medical services (EMS) • Staff delays getting to/from work, especially during game days • Mass casualty incidents • Infectious disease exposures requiring investigations and management (e.g., measles) • Limited community isolation and quarantine capacity for visitors

Questions?



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