

DGMQ Stories: Mass Gathering Preparedness - A Global Health Security Victory for All at World Cup in Brazil

Thirty-two teams are set to take their shot toward victory at the 2014 Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup this summer. Brazil is geared up to host more than three million fans from all corners of the world. U.S. World Cup ticket purchases far outnumber those of any other non-host nation, and CDC's Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ) (www.cdc.gov/migrationhealth) is taking aim to help our team and its supporters stay healthy during their World Cup quest.



Mass Gatherings Pose Unique Global Health Security Concerns



Did You Travel To Germany?
(World Cup June 9 - July 9, 2006)

If Yes...
then you may have been exposed to measles.

Following an exposure, unprotected people of any age may get measles. You are most likely protected from measles if you—

- have had measles,
- were born in the United States before 1957, or
- have had 2 doses of measles or MMR vaccine.

If you have a fever AND a red, raised rash; cough; runny nose; or red eyes:

- See your doctor right away.
- Tell your doctor that you have traveled in an area where there is a measles outbreak.
- Limit your contact with other people.
- Do not travel, unless you are traveling locally for medical care.

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/travel CDC

Measles poster used to raise awareness with travelers during the 2006 World Cup.

CDC is keeping the world safe and secure from infectious disease threats. Globalization of travel and trade increase the possibility and speed of these risks. To enhance global health security, CDC's epidemiologists are studying ways to minimize public health and safety risks that intensify during mass gatherings.

A mass gathering is when a large number of people come together in a particular location for a specific purpose. Mass gatherings can be festivals, religious observances, sporting events, concerts, or political rallies. Mass gatherings pose unique health risks because having large numbers of people in a small space can aid the spread of infectious diseases. "The implications that mass gatherings have on global health security are not only due to people getting sick while in attendance, but a traveler attending the mass gathering could spread an infection further after returning home," says DGMQ epidemiologist Dr. Joanna Gaines. Gaines further explains how injury and safety risks are also increased in a crowd, especially when local health care resources, security, and infrastructure are not adequate to meet the needs of large numbers of people.

Mass gatherings can cause a disease outbreak or amplify the spread of a disease if an outbreak already exists in the host location. For example, in 2013, an outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus was peaking when people began traveling to Hajj in Saudi Arabia. In 2014 the outbreak continues to be closely watched. Other examples include a measles outbreak in Germany at the same time as the 2006 World Cup and the widespread 2009 H1N1 flu pandemic at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics.



We all win!
Nous y gagnons tous!

- Wash your hands
Lavez-vous les mains
- Cough and sneeze into your arm
Toussez et éternuez dans votre bras

8-1-1 For health info call: 8-1-1
Besoin d'information sur la santé? Composez en tout temps le 8-1-1

HealthLinkBC CDC Government of Canada Canada

Billboard used during the Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Canada, to help slow the spread of H1N1 flu.



DGMQ Leads Efforts to Protect People Attending Mass Gatherings

For years, teams of scientists and communicators at CDC's Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ) have been protecting Americans from health and safety risks both in the United States and overseas. Dr. Gary Brunette, chief of DGMQ's Travelers' Health Branch, notes that the most cost-effective way to protect Americans from health threats beyond our borders is prevention and early detection. "We do not want to scare people from going to mass gatherings because it is fun to participate in social, religious, sporting, and other enjoyable large events. However, someone needs to be concerned about the risks, and that job falls on us," Brunette says. "We look at mass gatherings, like the World Cup, from a risk perspective, and it is our job to constantly be working to reduce those risks."

DGMQ conducts risk assessments to identify threats to the health of U.S. travelers going to mass gatherings abroad. The 2014 FIFA World Cup is expected to be one of the biggest mass gatherings of all time, leading DGMQ scientists to analyze all of the potential health and safety risk factors. Armed with data from multiple sources and expert analysis, DGMQ provides updated travel notices and guidance for event planners, travelers, and medical providers about the unique risks a traveler may face in Brazil.

CDC is also focused on developing research-based guidance for domestic mass gathering planners in the event of another flu pandemic. Germs like flu can spread easily in places where many people are in close contact with one another. Postponing or cancelling a mass gathering is one of several strategies that can be taken early in a pandemic to help slow the spread of disease.

Given the importance of focusing on ways to prevent health risks and detect diseases early at large events, Brunette and Gaines are spearheading an interdisciplinary Mass Gatherings Working Group to harness expertise from across the agency. Ultimately, the working group aims to provide comprehensive risk assessment, surveillance, and preparedness support for mass gathering planners. This will make it easier for countries like Brazil to find the public health expertise they need to prevent global health security risks and leave behind a positive legacy in the wake of playing host to large and popular global gatherings.

With tens of thousands of U.S. travelers making the 2014 World Cup in Brazil their travel goal, CDC is working 24/7 to make it a global health security victory for us all.

For more information about DGMQ travel notices and CDC's work on mass gatherings, go to:

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/travel-to-mass-gatherings>

<http://www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/gathering/>

Examples of Mass Gathering Events with a Public Health Impact

- 1993:** 69 crowd crush injuries at a Madison, Wisconsin, football game
- 1996:** Thousands of heat-related illnesses; 111 injuries and one death due to bombing at the Atlanta Olympics
- 1997:** Meningococcal outbreak from a soccer event in Belgium
- 2000:** Meningococcal outbreak from Hajj pilgrims; 90 cases and 14 deaths
- 2008:** Influenza outbreak at World Youth Day in Australia
- 2010:** Measles outbreaks in Germany from a Christian pilgrimage in France
- 2013:** Norovirus disease outbreak at World Youth Day in Brazil

www.cdc.gov/migrationhealth

1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636); TTY: 888-232-6348; www.cdc.gov/info