



Public Health's Role in Protecting the Public During the 2026 World Cup

With less than a month away, the World Cup is expected to bring thousands of international travelers to the three host countries, United States, Canada, and Mexico. The World Cup will take place from June 11 to July 19 with Los Angeles hosting a total of eight matches at the SoFi stadium (rebranded Los Angeles Stadium). The first match in Los Angeles is scheduled for June 12 at 6pm and the last match for July 10 at 12pm. In addition to the matches, cities across the region will be hosting 10 Fan Zones where thousands of locals and visitors are expected to participate. These events will include food, live music, and entertainment. In the South Bay, the West Harbor Fan Zone will take place on July 14-15 and July 18-19.

Large-scale events, such as the World Cup, attract people from different parts of the world and can increase the spread of communicable diseases among the general population. In response, The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) is taking a proactive approach in protecting both residents and visitors during the month-long festivities. Public Health's three core responsibilities will focus on environmental health, disease surveillance and control, and emergency management.

Some of the environmental health measures include permitting and inspections of all planned community and FIFA sponsored events (i.e., mobile/temporary food facilities, venues such as SoFi stadium, and hotel inspections). Environmental Health staff will also assist the Acute Communicable Disease Control (ACDC) program with any environmental investigations related to food and water contamination.

The ACDC program will work with Community Field Services and the Public Health Lab to conduct disease surveillance and control activities. Some of these activities include educating the general public on event-related health guidance (i.e., hydration and heat safety, handwashing, vaccination awareness, avoiding impaired driving, pedestrian safety, and food safety) and performing case/contact interviews and testing in the event of an outbreak. ACDC will monitor the spread of diseases, including wastewater surveillance, to detect unusual clusters/cases and will work with the healthcare community to prevent further spread of diseases. Some diseases of concern include measles, norovirus, travel-associated infections, dengue and other vector-borne diseases, STIs, and foodborne illness.

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The Emergency Preparedness and Response Program will work with other agencies, like the FBI, LAPD, and Sheriff, to conduct BioWatch operations at SoFi stadium, LA Coliseum, and the Fan Zones and provide emergency management coordination in the event of an emergency.

In addition to the core services, Public Health will launch a communication campaign that will focus on clear, practical guidance to help Los Angeles County residents and visitors stay healthy during large gatherings and increased travel. Messaging will prioritize prevention, personal responsibility, and awareness of common health risks associated with large events. Key messages include:

- **Hydration and Safety:** staying hydrated before, during, and after events; recognizing signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke.
- **Communicable Disease Prevention:** handwashing, staying home when sick, vaccination awareness, and travel-related disease risk. Priority conditions include norovirus, foodborne illness, Shigella, STIs, and measles.
- **Responsible Celebrations and Safety:** party responsibly and peacefully, avoid impaired driving, and stay aware of pedestrian safety in crowded areas.
- **Food Safety:** encourage residents and visitors to choose permitted vendors and look for the County's food safety grading system.

Staying Protected with Vaccines During Summer Travel & World Cup

This summer Los Angeles County expects to host over 180,000 international travelers starting June 12 for the first Los Angeles match of the 2026 World Cup. Large-scale events such as these can place county residents at higher risk for infectious diseases. Additionally, as of May 16, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) has confirmed the fifth measles case in 2026 resulting from travel overseas.

To protect community health, Public Health recommends taking precautionary measures during large-scale events and the busy summer travel season. These include washing hands often, using hand sanitizer, staying home when sick, and staying up to date on all recommended vaccines. To find vaccine locations and to learn more, the general public can visit ph.lacounty.gov/vaccines or call the Public Health Info line at 1-833-540-0473.

For residents who will be traveling during the summer months, Public Health and health experts recommend scheduling a travel medicine consultation at least 4–8 weeks before departure. Vaccinations should be completed at least 4 weeks before travel to allow time for the body to develop immunity. Some vaccines require multiple doses over several weeks to

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be effective, so residents should plan accordingly. Additionally, certain travel-specific vaccines are only available at specialized travel clinics and may not be fully covered by insurance, so advanced planning is essential. Residents can visit ph.lacounty.gov/TravelVaccines to learn more about recommended routine vaccines and other destination-specific vaccines.

Furthermore, as measles outbreaks continue to occur both in the United States and internationally, Public Health urges everyone in LA County to ensure they are fully protected from measles before traveling. The most effective way to protect yourself and your family is with the [measles-mumps-rubella \(MMR\) vaccine](#). Children 12 months and older are considered fully protected against measles after receiving two doses of the MMR vaccine. Infants who are older than 6 months and are traveling internationally or to [domestic areas with ongoing measles outbreaks](#) can get an early dose.

Low-Cost Path to Starting a Food Business

A Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation (MEHKO) is a small-scale, home-based restaurant where food is prepared, handled, and served to customers directly from the cook's private home kitchen. The food must be made and served on the same day; it can be eaten on-site, picked up by customers or delivered to the customers.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors reviewed and approved the MEHKO ordinance in May 2024, giving Public Health's Environmental Health division the authority to issue public health permits and conduct inspections of MEHKOs.

For a limited time, Los Angeles County is offering a one-time subsidy on a first-come, first-serve basis for up to 1,000 MEHKO permittees. The subsidy will waive the initial application review fee of \$597. The subsidy is available through June 30, 2026, or until the subsidy funds are exhausted.

Click [here](#) to view a MEHKO in action.

For more information about the permit application and process, visit <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/business/microenterprise-home-kitchen-operation.htm>

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Residents Are Invited to Complete the Los Angeles County Health Survey

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health), in partnership with RTI International, has launched the 2026 Los Angeles County Health Survey and is encouraging invited residents to participate. The 2026 survey marks the 10th cycle of the Los Angeles County Health Survey and will continue through December 2026. The results are used to plan programs that improve the health and wellbeing of all County residents.

The web and telephone-based survey will ask about health needs, health conditions, and other related topics that impact residents, their children and their communities. The survey is available in English, Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, and Vietnamese.

The survey does not ask about citizenship and legal status, and participation in the survey does not affect any household benefits. All responses are kept strictly confidential, and survey information is not shared with any other government agencies.

Invitation letters for the survey are being mailed to randomly selected households throughout Los Angeles County. Residents may be invited to complete an adult survey, a child survey, or both.

To help residents identify official survey materials, an example of the invitation letter can be viewed at Public Health's Los Angeles County Health Survey [website](#).

Invited residents who complete the survey will be sent a gift card or check starting at \$20.

For more information about the survey, visit Public Health's Los Angeles County Health Survey [website](#), call toll-free at 877-282-4757, or email LACountyHealthSurvey@rti.org.