



DATE: June 9, 2026
TO: Healthcare Providers
FROM: Dr. Maggie Park, Public Health Officer *mpark*

Please distribute to all providers and relevant medical staff in your office.

HEALTH ADVISORY

FIFA World Cup and Ebola Outbreak

Situation:

FIFA World Cup 2026 matches will take place from mid-June to mid-July with Bay Area games hosted at Levi Stadium in Santa Clara and Southern California games hosted at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles. A large influx of domestic and international travelers is expected, and there is potential for attendees to visit adjacent counties such as San Joaquin. It is also expected that summer gatherings will increase in relation to World Cup events.

Due to the increased risk of transmission of communicable diseases, health care providers should be on alert for infectious illnesses such as mpox and other sexually transmitted illnesses, measles, influenza, and norovirus. Locally San Joaquin County is experiencing an uptick in pertussis cases, which may play a factor. Heat-related illnesses and substance and alcohol-related illnesses are also of concern.

Importation of and exposure to travel-associated infectious diseases may result in new cases of tuberculosis, dengue, and malaria. The current outbreak of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda has raised heightened concern, although the risk of transmission in the U.S. remains low.

Background of Ebola:

In early May, a hospital in northeastern DRC identified a cluster of severe illnesses affecting healthcare workers. On May 15, DRC and Uganda declared outbreaks of Ebola. The causative species was identified as Bundibugyo, and this is the third outbreak of Bundibugyo, with prior outbreaks in 2007 in Uganda and 2012 in DRC. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has reported 6 high-risk American contacts, including one person who has tested positive, who are all stable and being cared for in Germany and Czech Republic.

Asymptomatic travelers returning to the U.S. from DRC, Uganda, or South Sudan are undergoing exit screenings and then being funneled to four airports (Dulles, Atlanta, Houston, JFK) for entry screenings. CDC notifies the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) of any travelers returning to California, and these travelers are monitored for 21 days by the local health department. San Joaquin County has had no high-risk exposures return from the affected areas.



Clinical Information on Bundibugyo:

The clinical presentation of the Bundibugyo species of the Orthoebolavirus genus is similar to other Ebola species (Zaire, Sudan). The incubation period is 2-21 days from exposure, with transmission occurring through direct contact with blood or body fluids of a sick person or with contaminated objects. Initial signs and symptoms may include:

- Fever and chills
- Fatigue, weakness
- Muscle and joint pain
- Sore throat and anorexia
- Abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea

Patients are not contagious before symptom onset. A patient becomes more contagious as the disease progresses and symptoms become more “wet” with diarrhea, vomiting, bleeding, and conjunctivitis.

There are no FDA-approved therapeutics or vaccines for Bundibugyo virus.

Recommendations for Clinicians:

- Maintain awareness and expand differential diagnoses for emerging illnesses.
- Watch for unusual clusters of illness that might signal an outbreak.
- Routinely elicit travel histories from patients, including attendance at World Cup events.
- Record “World Cup” attendance in medical records when applicable.
- Ensure that infection control policies and practices are in place to appropriately isolate an individual with an airborne illness or high-consequence pathogen.
- Screen broadly for HIV, syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia. Emergency departments are encouraged to implement opt-out testing for HIV, syphilis and Hepatitis C.
- Notify San Joaquin County Public Health Services Disease Control and Prevention Program by phone **(209) 468-3822** of any reportable disease. [Title 17 Reportable Diseases & Conditions](#) After hours, call **(209) 468-6000** and ask to speak with the on-call public health nurse. Any suspected case of viral hemorrhagic fever such as Ebola requires immediate notification.



Resources:

CDC Safety for Soccer Fans information is located [here](#)

CDC Mass Gatherings Yellow Book information is located [here](#)

CDC Travel Health Notices are located [here](#)

CDC Clinical Guidance for Ebola Disease can be found [here](#)

Click [here](#) for **CDPH Ebola Disease: Information for Health Professionals**

CDC COCA Call “**What Clinicians Should Know about Ebola Bundibugyo Virus**” link is located [here](#)

CDC Health Action Network: **Ebola Disease in the DRC & Uganda** is located [here](#)

CDPH CAHAN **Ebola Disease Outbreak in the DRC and Uganda 5/20/2026** is located [here](#)

San Joaquin County Public Health Services [Sexually Transmitted Infection Provider Guide](#)