



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

Public Health Division



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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

To: Santa Cruz County Healthcare Providers

From: Lisa B. Hernandez, MD, MPH, County Public Health Officer

Subject: 2026 Super Bowl LX – Recommendations for Healthcare Providers

Date: February 2, 2026

Situational Update:

The San Francisco Bay area is a major hub for travel and transportation with people from around the world visiting for business, leisure and special events. Super Bowl LX takes place in the city of Santa Clara on February 8, 2026, and related mass gatherings in the Bay Area will begin on February 3.

These events will draw a large number of travelers to our region during the winter respiratory season when the transmission and healthcare burden of viral illnesses like influenza, COVID-19, and RSV are high. Travelers may come from domestic and international locations with communicable diseases that are not endemic to our region. Mass events may also be targets for bioterrorism.

ACTIONS REQUESTED OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

The County of Santa Cruz urges providers to help protect the public's health during this period of increased risk by doing the following through the entire month of February 2026:

1. Expand differential diagnoses to consider non-endemic diseases (e.g., viral hemorrhagic fevers, arboviral diseases, typhoid) and bioterrorism agents (biological, chemical, or radiological).
2. Routinely elicit and document patients' recent travel history (both international and domestic).
3. Routinely elicit and document patient attendance at the Super Bowl or any related events to help local health jurisdictions investigate potential clusters of illness.
 - o For patients who have attended the Super Bowl, include the term "Super Bowl" in their medical record
 - o For patients who attended events related to the Super Bowl, include the name and location of the events in their medical record.

4. 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 (e.g., anthrax, plague, tularemia) in patients with no history suggesting an explanation for illness.
 - Large number of 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 Santa Cruz County Public Health.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Confidential Morbidity Report \(CMR\)](#)
- [California Department of Public Health's Reportable Diseases and Conditions](#)
- [CDC: Preventing Spread of Respiratory Viruses When You're Sick](#)
- [Santa Cruz County Respiratory Virus Resources](#)

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 updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.