

January 18, 2019

EMS Specific Health Advisory: Enhanced Infectious Disease Surveillance during Super Bowl

On Feb. 3, 2019, the City of Atlanta will host the NFL Super Bowl LIII at Mercedes-Benz Stadium. There will be multiple Super Bowl events at venues across the city and an influx of an estimated 1 million people to the area from Jan. 26, 2019 through Feb. 4, 2019. General information and schedules of events can be found at <https://atlsuperbowl53.com/>.

The Georgia Department of Public Health is working to support activities surrounding this event to ensure that visitors and Georgia residents have a safe and healthy experience. This document highlights some potential public health issues that may arise.

Influenza-like illnesses and viral gastroenteritis (e.g., norovirus infections) are common this time of year. Due to the large number of people congregating for Super Bowl events, we expect to see an increase in these illnesses, as well as other infectious diseases. In addition, vigilance is needed to detect severe illnesses or clusters (two or more people with similar illness or exposures) of illness.

Action Steps for EMS Providers:

- Maintain a heightened awareness from Jan. 26 – Feb. 8, 2019.
- Ask patients who present with signs or symptoms of possible infectious illnesses about attendance at Super Bowl-related events (including any fan-experience, concert, or other Super Bowl-related public gathering) and the time of symptom onset.
- **If the patient has been to any Super Bowl related public event, please document those events in the following TWO locations:**
 1. **Recent Travel/Travel Locations**
 - Answer the **Recent Travel Question (itExam.070)** – “*Has the patient traveled outside their community in the last 30 days?*” with a “YES”
 - Please answer “YES” regardless of their home location
 - In **Travel Locations (itExam.074)**, please document “Super Bowl” and which specific events they attended, including the location of the event
 2. **Narrative**
 - Include the term “Super Bowl” in the narrative (eNarrative.01), along with the event(s) they attended, including the location (venue), and their activities/length of time at that event
- If your EMS Agency notices an increase in patients presenting with similar symptoms, report these immediately 24/7 to **1-866-PUB-HLTH (1-866-782-4584)**. This may represent a disease outbreak, or rarely, even bioterrorism.
- Think about the possibility of bioterrorism when evaluating a patient with an unusual presentation of a possible infectious or toxin-mediated syndrome (e.g., vesicular rash starting on face or extremities, descending bilateral paralysis, unexplained critical illness in an otherwise healthy person) and report any such cases immediately 24/7 to **1-866-PUB-HLTH (1-866-782-4584)**.
- Continue to conduct routine notifiable disease surveillance and reporting.