

Health Advisory: Enhanced Infectious Disease Surveillance during Super Bowl

Minnesota Department of Health Thu Jan 18 11:00 CST 2018

Action Steps:

Local and tribal health departments: Please forward to hospitals, clinics, emergency departments, urgent care centers, convenience clinics, and clinical microbiology laboratories

Hospitals, clinics and other facilities: Please distribute to health care providers, hospital epidemiologists, infection preventionists, pharmacists, and emergency managers.

Health care providers:

- Maintain a heightened awareness for infectious diseases or poisonings when evaluating patients during January 26—February 7, 2018.
- Ask patients who present with signs or symptoms of a possible infectious or toxin-mediated illness about attendance at Super Bowl-related events and timing of symptom onset. This is particularly important for patients presenting with respiratory, gastrointestinal, or neurological symptoms.
- Think about the possibility of bioterrorism or more common unintentional contamination if you or your facility notices an increase in patients presenting with similar symptoms and report such disease clusters **immediately** 24/7 to MDH by calling 651-201-5414.
- Think about the possibility of bioterrorism when evaluating a patient with an unusual presentation of a possible infectious or toxin-mediated syndrome (e.g., widened mediastinum, 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 MDH by calling 651-201-5414.
- Continue to conduct routine disease reporting to MDH and your facility's infection control staff during January 26—February 7, 2018.

Background

The City of Minneapolis will host the National Football League (NFL) Super Bowl LII on February 4, 2018. Beginning on January 26, there will be multiple Super Bowl events at a variety of venues across the Twin Cities, and a resulting influx of an estimated one million additional people to the area.

This time of year, influenza-like illnesses and viral gastroenteritis (e.g., norovirus infections) are common. Due to the influx of people in public gatherings, we expect to see more of these illnesses. In addition, because of the high profile nature of the event, vigilance is needed for any illnesses or clusters of illness that could be related to terrorism. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is requesting health care providers statewide (particularly in the Twin Cities metropolitan area) to be vigilant for an increase in patients with signs of any infectious disease or poisoning.

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SUPER BOWL

Resources

- [Enhanced Disease Surveillance During Superbowl LII \(PDF: 2 pages\)](#)
Table showing possible clinical presentations, pathogens, and required reporting.
- [If You Hear These Hoofbeats \(PDF: 1 page\)](#)
Poster with reminders of symptoms that can herald bioterrorism agents.

A copy of this HAN is available at www.health.state.mn.us/han/.

The content of this message is intended for public health and health care personnel and response partners who have a need to know the information to perform their duties.