

Hospital Preparedness Checklist – FIFA World Cup

Hospital: _____

Preparedness Lead: _____

Last Reviewed: _____

The FIFA World Cup will bring unprecedented crowds, international visibility, and a complex threat environment to Washington State. With hundreds of thousands of visitors, packed stadiums, fan zones, and transit hubs operating at peak capacity, the potential for medical emergencies—both accidental and intentional—rises sharply. Ensuring strong medical readiness is essential for several reasons:

- **Mass-gathering risks increase sharply.** Large crowds heighten the likelihood of trauma, cardiac events, heat-related illness, substance-related emergencies, and crowd-surge injuries.
- **Terrorism and targeted violence threats are elevated.** Global sporting events are historically attractive targets for bombings, shootings, and intentional biological or chemical exposure. Recent planning discussions with the State Emergency Management Division have reinforced the plausibility of these scenarios.
- **Hospitals are already at peak occupancy in June and July.** The World Cup overlaps with the highest census months, meaning the healthcare system must be prepared to absorb additional surge without compromising care.
- **Rapid coordination across the region becomes essential.** Effective patient placement, communication, and tracking across your local community and region as well as throughout Washington State are critical to managing multi-site incidents and preventing system overload.
- **First responders and frontline staff need strong support.** High-risk environments increase the likelihood of responder injury or exposure, requiring robust medical capability to keep emergency operations functioning.
- **Critical infrastructure must remain resilient.** Lumen Field, fan zones, practice sites, and transit hubs all depend on reliable medical coverage to operate safely and recover quickly from disruptions.

Medical response readiness is foundational to the safe and successful execution of the FIFA World Cup around the state. It protects residents, visitors, and first responders; strengthens the resilience of critical infrastructure; and ensures the region can respond effectively to both expected and unexpected threats during one of the largest events the state has ever hosted.

Please use the following checklists recommendations to prepare your organization for FIFA World Cup 2026.

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1. Leadership, Governance & Coordination

- Identify FIFA World Cup Hospital Lead
- Review Incident Command System (ICS) structure including notification and activation procedures
- Define activation triggers (match days, fan zones, credible threats, surge)
- Align departmental plans with Hospital Emergency Operations Plans
- Know how to contact key stakeholders and establish routine check-ins with:
 - Local Emergency Management / Emergency Operations Center
 - EMS agencies
 - Public Health
 - Law enforcement
 - Healthcare coalition partners
- Identify decision-authority for:
 - Surge activation
 - Lockdown
 - Care diversion
 - Media coordination

2. Risk Assessment & Situational Awareness

- Update Hazard Specific Plans for:
 - Mass gatherings
 - Terrorism / targeted violence
 - Crowd-related trauma
 - Communicable disease influx
 - Cyber threats
- Map hospital proximity to:
 - Stadium
 - Fan zones
 - Team hotels
 - Transit hubs
- Define most-likely scenarios:
 - Mass casualty incident
 - Crowd crush / trampling
 - Vehicle incident
 - Severe heat illness
 - Infectious disease exposure
 - Cyber outage

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3. Special Pathogens & Infectious Disease Preparedness

- Identify high-risk and likely pathogens based on global travel patterns
- Confirm screening questions and rapid triage protocols
- Confirm availability of:
 - Isolation rooms
 - Negative pressure capability
 - Controlled transport routes
- Validate testing pathways:
 - Hospital lab
 - Public health lab
 - CDC (as applicable)
- Confirm treatment protocols and consult pathways
- Train staff on:
 - PPE donning/doffing
 - Isolation workflows
 - Exposure management
 - Inventory PPE and confirm surge cache
- Test special pathogen response via tabletop or drill

4. Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Preparedness

- Review and update:
 - MCI plan
 - Surge plan
 - Burn plan
 - Pediatric care plan
 - Decontamination plan
 - Radiation response (if applicable)
- Confirm interoperability with EMS and regional hospitals
- Identify surge spaces:
 - ED expansion
 - PACU / procedural areas
 - Inpatient surge units
 - Alternate care spaces
- Confirm rapid staffing recall procedures
- Validate blood bank, imaging, and OR surge capability

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- Confirm patient tracking system readiness
- Align family reunification processes with county plans
- Conduct MCI tabletop or functional exercise pre-event

4A. Fatality & Decedent Management

- Review and update mass fatality procedures
- Confirm morgue surge capacity
- Plan for delayed body removal

5. Clinical Operations & Staffing

- Forecast staffing needs for:
 - ED
 - ICU
 - OR
 - Imaging
 - Pharmacy
 - Registration
 - Environmental Services
- Identify staffing augmentation strategies:
 - Overtime
 - Float pool
 - On-call staffing
- Review staff fatigue and wellbeing plans
- Confirm interpreter services surge plan (languages TBD)
- Validate patient throughput and discharge acceleration plans

5A. Language Access & Informed Consent

- Identify top anticipated languages based on FIFA teams, fan demographics, and tourism data
- Translate clinical consent forms into those languages, if necessary

Example Forms:

- Conditions of Admission Form
- AMA Form
- Consent for Surgery or Other Invasive Procedure Form Transfer Consent – Physician Certification
- MRI Screening Form
- CT Screening Form
- Blood Transfusion Forms
- Informed Consent for Blood Transfusion Form
- Consent for Labor & Delivery Form

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- Behavioral Health Forms
- Discharge Instructions
- Financial Forms
- Medical Records Forms
- Translate patient rights, refusals of care, discharge instructions, and financial disclosures
- Validate 24/7 interpreter access (in-person, video, telephonic)
- Define emergent consent workflows when language barriers exist
- Train staff on interpretive services

5B. Human Trafficking Awareness, Identification & Response

- Train ED, OB, inpatient, registration, and security staff on indicators
- Define safe escalation pathways (social work, case management)
- Ensure private screening capability
- Provide just-in-time reference tools

5C. Behavioral Health & Substance-Related Surge

- Forecast surge in intoxication, overdose, acute psychosis
- Confirm ED behavioral health surge capacity
- Coordinate with crisis response teams
- Review restraint and observation workflows

6. Security & Public Safety

- Update threat assessment with law enforcement
- Review and test:
 - Lockdown procedures
 - Restricted access processes
 - Badge policies for temporary staff
- Identify high-risk access points:
 - ED
 - Lobbies
 - Parking
 - Public corridors
- Review crowd disturbance response procedures
- Confirm VIP / high-profile patient protocols
- Scale security staffing for match days and fan activity
- Train staff on:
 - Suspicious activity reporting
 - De-escalation

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- Active threat awareness

6A. Transportation & Traffic Impact Planning

- Monitor road closures, parking impacts, and transit disruptions
- Model EMS transport delays from stadiums and fan zones
- Adjust staffing expectations based on access limits
- Establish staff access contingencies

7. Cybersecurity & Technology Resilience

- Elevate cyber threat monitoring during event period
- Review ransomware, malware, and phishing defenses
- Secure public Wi-Fi and temporary networks
- Confirm access controls for:
 - Temporary staff
 - Vendors
 - Contractors
- Test system backups and recovery timelines
- Validate downtime procedures for:
 - EHR
 - Registration
 - Imaging
 - Pharmacy
- Confirm redundant communications (FirstNet, radios, alternatives)

8. Communications & Information Management

- Establish internal communication cadence
- Prepare staff situational awareness messaging
- Align public messaging with health system communications
- Pre-draft messages for:
 - Surge
 - Restricted access
 - System downtime
- Identify spokesperson and approval process

9. Logistics & Supply Chain

- Cache critical supplies:
 - PPE

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- Trauma supplies
 - IV fluids
 - Medications
- Identify supply chain vulnerabilities
 - Confirm vendor continuity plans
 - Validate fuel, power, and water contingencies

10. Training, Exercising & Readiness Validation

- Conduct multi-disciplinary tabletop exercise
- Conduct functional or partial activation drill
- Provide just-in-time training resources
- Brief executive leadership on readiness status

11. Staff Safety, Wellness & Equity

- Validate staff safety protocols
- Prepare behavioral health and peer support resources
- Ensure equitable access to care planning
- Monitor staff stress and fatigue during event period

12. Recovery & After-Action Planning

- Define data points for post-event review
- Schedule hot wash / After-Action Review
- Participate in community/regional/State debriefs
- Identify recovery staffing and support needs
- Update plans and procedures based on lessons learned