



January 16, 2019

Health Advisory: Enhanced Infectious Disease Surveillance during Super Bowl

Background:

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. We would like to highlight 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 Healthcare 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 and the time of symptom onset.
 - Please include the term **Super Bowl** in the chief complaint or discharge diagnosis of the medical record.
- If your facility 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., 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 **1-866-PUB-HLTH (1-866-782-4584)**.
- Continue to conduct routine notifiable disease surveillance and reporting.