



FIFA World Cup 2026

Health and Medical FAQ's

Q: What type of training or exercises is SETRAC planning for WC?

A: We will be hosting tabletop exercises, as well as our regional functional exercise focusing on WC and surge capacity. The exercise planning team is scheduled to meet January 6th, and exercises should be scheduled for April into May.

Q: What will be the specific role of SETRAC in regional coordination? Will there be regionalization of transportation like during COVID?

A: Normal transportation destinations of HFD EMS traffic will be done through the HFD Base Station. We will have our Base Station Manager present during game days and significant events. SETRAC will be staffing CMOC at Transtar and provide a Liaison to the Area Command to monitor healthcare infrastructure and field medical requests.

Q: Is there a suggested list of risks healthcare facilities should be assessing and planning for?

A: While this is not all inclusive, some items to assess could be: civil unrest, mass gatherings, traffic interruptions for EMS and staff, supply chain delays, security and access control into facility, infection control measures.

Q: When you talk about alternate care sites, are you saying tents in parking lots?

A: No. Consider additional areas in your facility that could be utilized for stable patients waiting lab/xray results or discharge lounges for patients awaiting rides.

Q: What about holidays and weekends?

A: Houston has 4 games scheduled on a weekend (6/14, 6/20, 6/26, and 7/4). You can expect your usual weekend traffic will be increased. July 4th also has Freedom Over Texas and an Astro's game scheduled for that day.



Q: Any relief in patient transport volume expected from SETRAC at the event sites?

A: All transport decisions will be made by the HFD Base Station based on hospital status and capability. Minor medical care will be provided at festival sites. Freestanding ED's may be locations for direct patient transports, HFD will be utilizing ETHAN to assess and redirect minor patients to same day appointments at participating clinics, and HPD will be staffing up the Sobriety Center.

Q: Is there an expectation to need to upstaff on non-game days as well?

A: We cannot answer this question at this time. Final schedule of events for Fan Fest has not been shared with us, nor have the Mile March routes been shared. As soon as we know, we will share this information with you so you can make an informed decision.

Q: Is there an anticipation of needing upstaffing of ancillary services like dialysis, chemotherapy administration, etc.? Is there a regional plan for Forensic Nursing capabilities or a gap analysis on need for increasing staffing?

A: While that remains a possibility due to "medical tourism", our Special Populations Coordinator has been working with dialysis centers and other specialty facilities to ensure they are also prepared for an increase population. Upstaffing on non-game days is still unsure - there has not been a final schedule of events for Fan Fest, and I don't believe they have determined what day's events will be taking place - other than game days. Our games fall all through the week (1 on a Sunday, 2 on Saturday). For ancillary medical services, I would not anticipate increased services for dialysis and chemo - from previous locations, we have been told these are usually fairly well to do younger individuals that travel and follow the games. For forensic nursing - we can anticipate non-sanctioned parties (similar to Final Four or Super Bowl) - we have no visibility on these events. If you have data from Super Bowl in Houston, you could use that as a baseline for services needed above normal.

Q: Will SETRAC coordinate with regional public health authorities to identify novel infectious threats or diseases not endemic to Houston from countries expected to visit the area? In addition, will there be recommendations from public health authorities on medications needed to address endemic diseases or novel infections in expected travelers?



A: We have a preliminary report from the Epi Group and will share that via the website once approved. In the meantime, there is a short power point coming soon. It will also be posted to our website.

Q: Will there be a need to coordinate with foreign state departments to track patients admitted to facilities?

A: Yes - all patients entering a healthcare facility will need to be entered into Pulsara from the hospital. A World Cup Event will be made that includes various incident locations (NRG, practice field, Fan Fest, etc so we can track from what venue the patient is from. We have also asked Pulsara to include “Nationality” as a required field to assist our state departments as necessary. If your facility needs training on Pulsara, please reach out to our Training and Exercise Coordinator.

Q: Will SETRAC assist HC facilities in ensuring awareness of major traffic disruptions?

A: Absolutely - we plan to send daily event lists, areas of concern, road closures, weather, etc. We currently plan to host a conference call on games days - pre and post-game. Once Metro finalizes their traffic plan, we will post to our website as well.

Q: Is SETRAC planning to collect and coordinate distribution of post-event learnings?

A: Absolutely - we will host a regional AAR session from a medical standpoint.