



TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Hospitals and Other Healthcare Facilities

FROM: Matthew Christiansen, MD, MPH, Commissioner and State Health Officer
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health

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LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: Please distribute to community health providers, hospital-based physicians, infection control preventionists, laboratory directors, and other applicable partners.

OTHER RECIPIENTS: Please distribute to association members, staff, etc.

West Virginia is hosting two concurrent mass gatherings this Summer, the National Scout Jamboree on July 19, 2023, through July 28, 2023, at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in Fayette County and World Association of Marching Show Bands on July 17, 2023, through July 24, 2023, in the city of Buckhannon in Upshur County. Mass gatherings can create an environment that increases the risk for disease occurrence and transmission due to overcrowded conditions, limited hand hygiene facilities and compromised personal hygiene practices. Additionally, with international attendees coming from various geographic regions, the risk for transmission of diseases that may not be endemic to West Virginia increases.

This Health Advisory serves as a reminder to all healthcare providers and laboratorians to report outbreaks, communicable diseases, and unusual conditions or emerging infectious diseases as required by the West Virginia Legislative Rule for Reportable Diseases, Events and Conditions (64CSR7).

The WV Bureau for Public Health is working with event organizers to track and monitor reports of illness, injury or disease. Outbreak detection and response activities will be enhanced over the course of the events.

Situations that should be reported to the WV Bureau for Public Health include:

- Outbreaks or clusters of disease (immediately reportable to the local health department);
- Reportable diseases (as defined by the Legislative Reportable Disease Rule, 64CSR7); and
- Unusual conditions or emerging infectious diseases (reportable within 24 hours to the local health department).

For more information, please contact the Office of Epidemiology and Prevention Services, Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at (304) 558-5358, extension 2.

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to local health departments and professional associations. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information as appropriate to the target audience.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance. Warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation. May not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation. Unlikely to require immediate action.