

Ebola Disease & the FIFA World Cup 2026

What is happening?

There is an active outbreak of Ebola disease in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda. The World Health Organization declared this a Public Health Emergency of International Concern in May 2026. As of June 2026, the outbreak has been contained to those two countries — **no cases have been reported in the United States.**

At the same time, the FIFA World Cup 2026 is bringing international visitors from around the world to Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara — just a short distance from San Benito County. **The risk to San Benito County residents is very low.** However, many of our residents commute to Santa Clara County for work.

✓ The risk to San Benito County residents is very low

Ebola does not spread through the air, water, food, or casual contact. You cannot get Ebola by being near someone who has it. It only spreads through direct contact with the blood or body fluids of a person who is sick with Ebola. The vast majority of FIFA attendees have no connection to the affected region.

What should I know about Ebola?

Ebola is a serious illness, but it is not easily spread. Here is what matters most:

How it spreads

- Through **direct contact with blood or body fluids** (sweat, vomit, diarrhea, urine, semen) of a person who is sick with Ebola
- Through contact with objects contaminated by body fluids of a sick person
- **NOT** through air, water, food, or casual contact like sitting next to someone
- **NOT** from someone who has been exposed but is not yet sick — a person can only spread Ebola once they have symptoms

Symptoms to watch for

Symptoms appear between 2 and 21 days after exposure. If you have been in contact with someone with Ebola and develop any of the following, call us before going to any clinic or hospital:

• Fever $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ (38°C)	• Unexplained bleeding
• Severe headache	• Muscle pain, weakness
• Vomiting or diarrhea	• Abdominal pain

Have questions? Call us.

SAN BENITO COUNTY PHS

831-637-5367

Ask to speak with the Communicable Disease (CD) team. Call before visiting any clinic if you have symptoms + possible exposure.

CDC INFORMATION LINE

800-CDC-INFO

800-232-4636

IF IT'S A MEDICAL EMERGENCY

911

Tell dispatcher about possible Ebola exposure

CURRENT SITUATION

US cases **None reported**
California cases **None reported**
DRC confirmed cases **837+**
DRC confirmed deaths **196+**
Uganda confirmed cases **19**
Countries affected **DRC, Uganda**
WHO status **PHEIC active**
Last updated **June 17, 2026**

LEARN MORE

[> CDC Ebola Situation Summary](#) *Updated regularly*

[> CDPH — California Ebola Information](#)
State-level guidance

[> WHO Outbreak Page](#) *Global updates*

What does this mean for FIFA World Cup attendees?

If you attended or plan to attend FIFA World Cup events at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, you do not need to be concerned unless you had close physical contact with someone who was sick — and even then, the risk remains very low.

If you attended FIFA events and feel unwell within 21 days

If you develop fever or any of the symptoms listed above within 21 days of attending a FIFA event — especially if you also had contact with someone from DRC or Uganda who was ill — please **call San Benito County PHS before visiting a clinic or emergency room**. This helps us keep you and others safe.

If you traveled directly to or from DRC or Uganda in the past 21 days and are feeling unwell, please call us right away. Do not go directly to a clinic or hospital — call first so we can arrange for you to be seen safely.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q Should I avoid going to Santa Clara County or FIFA events?

No. There is no need to avoid Santa Clara County or FIFA events. The risk of Ebola transmission at these events is extremely low. Ebola does not spread through casual contact or being in the same area as others.

Q I attended a World Cup match. Do I need to do anything?

No specific action is needed. Simply be aware of the symptoms listed above and monitor yourself for 21 days after the event. If you develop fever and feel unwell, call San Benito County PHS before seeking care.

Q Can I get Ebola from a visitor at the World Cup?

Not through normal social contact. Ebola only spreads through direct contact with body fluids from someone who is already sick. Simply being near or sharing a space with international visitors does not put you at risk.

Q What should I do if I think I may have been exposed?

Call San Benito County PHS at **831-637-5367** and ask to speak with the Communicable Disease (CD) team before going anywhere. Our team will ask you a few questions, assess your risk level, and tell you exactly what steps to take. Do not go to an emergency room or urgent care without calling first.

Q Is there a vaccine for Ebola?

There is an approved vaccine for one type of Ebola (Zaire ebolavirus), but the current outbreak is caused by a different type called Bundibugyo virus, for which no approved vaccine currently exists. Treatment focuses on supportive care — fluids and symptom management — which significantly improves outcomes when started early.

Q How is San Benito County preparing?

San Benito County PHS is actively monitoring the situation and has coordinated with Hazel Hawkins Memorial Hospital, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and the CDC. We have protocols in place to identify and safely manage any suspected cases, and we are working with healthcare providers across the county to ensure they are prepared.

If you need to seek care

Call before you go — this is important

If you have symptoms AND a possible exposure (travel to DRC/Uganda, or contact with a confirmed case), please

call San Benito County PHS at **831-637-5367** and ask to speak with the Communicable Disease (CD) team before going to any clinic, urgent care, or emergency room. Calling first allows us to prepare for your arrival and protect other patients and staff. If it is a medical emergency, call 911 and tell the dispatcher about your possible exposure.

Page last updated: June 17, 2026. Information will be updated as the situation changes. For the most current outbreak data, visit [CDC's Ebola situation page](#).

San Benito County Health & Human Services — Public Health Division

351 Tres Pinos Rd, Suite A-202, Hollister, CA 95023 | 831-637-5367