



Mass Gathering Health Planning Course: Medical Services, Surveillance and Heat Illness



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Introduction:

Mass gathering health planning for medical services, surveillance and heat illness is a 5-day course for health authority planners, event medical leads and season health teams, ending with a Mass Gathering Health Plan for a case event. Large festivals, sports tournaments, exhibitions and pilgrimages overwhelm local clinics and ambulances when medical demand, heat exposure and infection spread are estimated too late. Nominees already plan or deliver health services for events and work through timed simulations of patient surges, heat waves and disease alerts. CoreConcept Training Center delivers this mass gathering health planning course.

Course Objectives:

- Estimate medical demand for a gathering from attendance, duration, weather, venue type and visitor health profile
- Design a medical services layout of first aid posts, field clinics, mobile teams and ambulance standby points with hospital transfer routes
- Set up an event syndromic surveillance system with daily reporting, alert thresholds and outbreak control actions
- Plan heat illness prevention, cooling stations and rapid cooling treatment for workers, visitors and vulnerable groups
- Connect on-site medical command with hospitals and ambulance services for a mass casualty incident at the event
- Produce a Mass Gathering Health Plan and run an after-action review that feeds the next event

Target Audience:

- Planning units in health authorities that approve and resource health cover for large public events
 - Medical leads who staff and run first aid posts, field clinics and mobile response teams at events
 - Season health teams that protect visitors and workers during pilgrimages and religious seasons
 - Ambulance and prehospital coordinators who position vehicles and manage transfers from event sites
 - Public health surveillance officers who monitor disease signals, food safety and water hygiene during gatherings
 - Hospital emergency liaison staff who prepare receiving hospitals for event patient loads
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Course Outline:

Day 1: Mass Gathering Medicine Foundations and Health Risk Profile

- Mass Gathering Medicine Scope Across Sports, Festivals and Pilgrimages
- Medical Demand Drivers Including Weather, Duration and Alcohol
- Patient Presentation Rate and Transfer to Hospital Rate
- Visitor Health Profile for Elderly, Chronic Illness and Children
- Health Readiness Gap Review of a Previous Gathering

Day 2: Health Risk Assessment and Medical Resource Planning Models

- Mass Gathering Health Risk Assessment Matrix by Hazard
- Medical Resource Estimation Model for Posts and Staff
- Minimum Data Set for Recording Event Patient Encounters
- Health Command Structure Linking Organiser and Health Authority
- Food Safety, Water Hygiene and Sanitation Inspection Plan

Day 3: Field Clinics, Ambulance Deployment and Event Surveillance

- Field Clinic and First Aid Post Site Layout
- Ambulance Standby Points, Access Lanes and Turnaround Times
- Syndromic Surveillance Case Categories and Daily Reporting Form
- Alert Thresholds and Outbreak Control Actions at Events
- Vaccination Advice and Pre-Travel Health Messaging for Visitors

Day 4: Heat Illness, Mass Casualty Interfaces and Problem Cases

- Heat Illness Spectrum From Heat Cramps to Heat Stroke
- Cooling Stations, Shade, Hydration Points and Work-Rest Cycles
- Rapid Cooling Protocol and Heat Stroke Referral Pathway
- START Triage and Casualty Clearing at the Event Site
- Receiving Hospital Notification and Patient Distribution Plan

Day 5: Event Health Simulation and the Mass Gathering Health Plan

- Heat Wave Day Simulation With Rising Clinic Attendance
 - Gastrointestinal Cluster Alert Simulation and Control Decisions
 - Mass Casualty Simulation With Hospital Distribution Decisions
 - Hot Debrief and After-Action Review Improvement Log
 - Mass Gathering Health Plan Completion and Panel Challenge
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Skills You Will Gain:

- Event Medical Demand Estimation
- Medical Resource Layout Planning
- Ambulance Deployment Planning
- Event Syndromic Surveillance
- Heat Illness Risk Control
- Casualty Clearing Coordination
- Hospital Interface Planning
- After-Action Review Facilitation

Why Attend This Course:

- Deliver a Mass Gathering Health Plan to the health authority and the event organiser for sign-off before the gates open
- Decide how many clinics, mobile teams and ambulances an event needs and where each one stands
- Avoid overloaded emergency departments, late heat stroke treatment and undetected food-borne clusters during an event
- Share the demand estimation sheet, surveillance form and cooling protocol with field medical and public health teams

Conclusion:

Back at work, the participant gives the health authority planning unit and the event organiser a Mass Gathering Health Plan that sets medical demand estimates, clinic and ambulance positions, surveillance reporting, heat protection measures and hospital notification arrangements for a case event. Planners use it to agree staffing, budgets and hospital readiness before the event, and medical leads use it on each operating day. After its first event, the unit should compare forecast and actual patient numbers, transfer times and alerts and revise the plan.

Frequently Asked Questions FAQ:

What should participants know before the mass gathering health planning course?

Participants should already plan or deliver health services for events, pilgrimages or public venues. Bringing attendance figures, clinic records or a medical plan from a recent gathering helps them test the demand model and simulations against their own work.

How does mass gathering health planning differ from a crowd safety or pandemic preparedness course?

It plans the health service for one time-limited event: medical demand, clinics, ambulances, event surveillance, heat illness and hospital links. Crowd safety courses study density and flow, and pandemic courses prepare hospitals for prolonged outbreaks, so both appear here only at the interface.

Why is heat illness central to mass gathering health planning?

Many gatherings take place outdoors in hot weather, with long waits, walking and elderly visitors. Heat exhaustion can progress to heat stroke within hours, so cooling stations, hydration points, work-rest cycles and a rapid cooling pathway must be planned before the event.

What do participants take back from the mass gathering health planning course?

Participants take back a Mass Gathering Health Plan for a case event, with a medical demand estimate, clinic and ambulance layout, surveillance form and alert thresholds, heat protection measures, a hospital notification plan and an after-action review log.