



# Ready for the World Stage: A Collaborative Approach to Food Protection for the World Cup

A Retail Food Safety Perspective

September 2026

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Retail Food Specialist, ORFP, OIFSSP, HFP



# NSSE vs. SEs

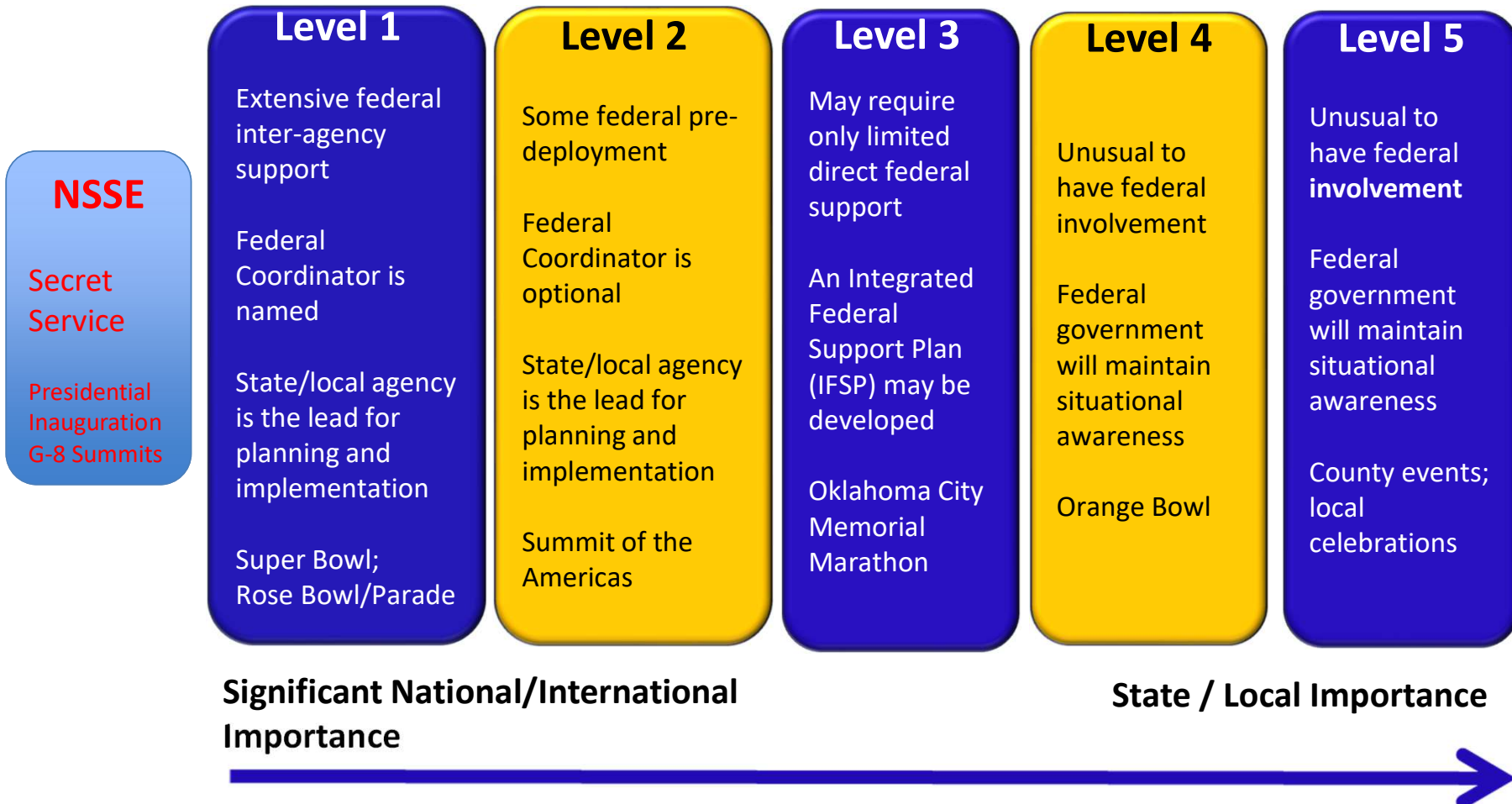
## **Special Events (SE)**

Organized, pre-planned mass gatherings of national or international importance; usually garners significant media coverage and are typically attended by dignitaries or public personalities

## **National Special Security Events (NSSE)**

A select group of SEs that are designated by the Secretary of US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and may be a target for terrorists due to visibility or political connections

# DHS Event Classification: Special Events Assessment Ratings (SEAR)



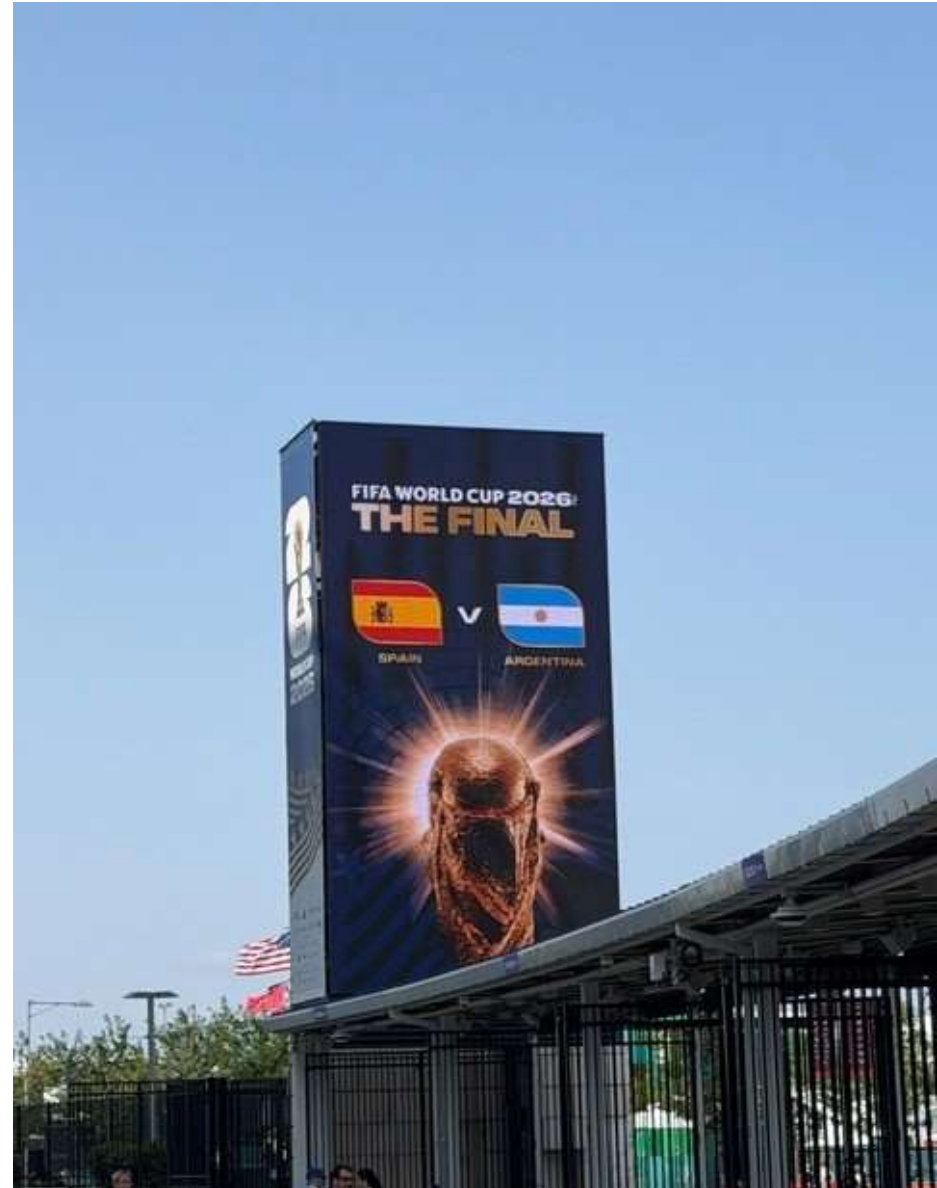
# 2026 FIFA World Cup



- 11 US locations
  - Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle
  - Dallas, Houston, Kansas City
  - Atlanta, Boston, Miami, New York/New Jersey, Philadelphia
- Regular matches - *Sear 2*
- Semi-finals – *Sear 1*
- Finals – *Sear 1* or *NSSE?*

# FDA's Involvement

- Request for Assistance (RFA)
  - New York City Department of Health
  - New Jersey Department of Health



# FDA's Primary Goals in Supporting SEs/NSSEs

- Enhance food safety and defense
  - Increased presence
  - Identifying risks
  - Implementing intervention strategies
- Deter food contamination
  - Increased surveillance
  - Targeted preventive activities prior to and during the event

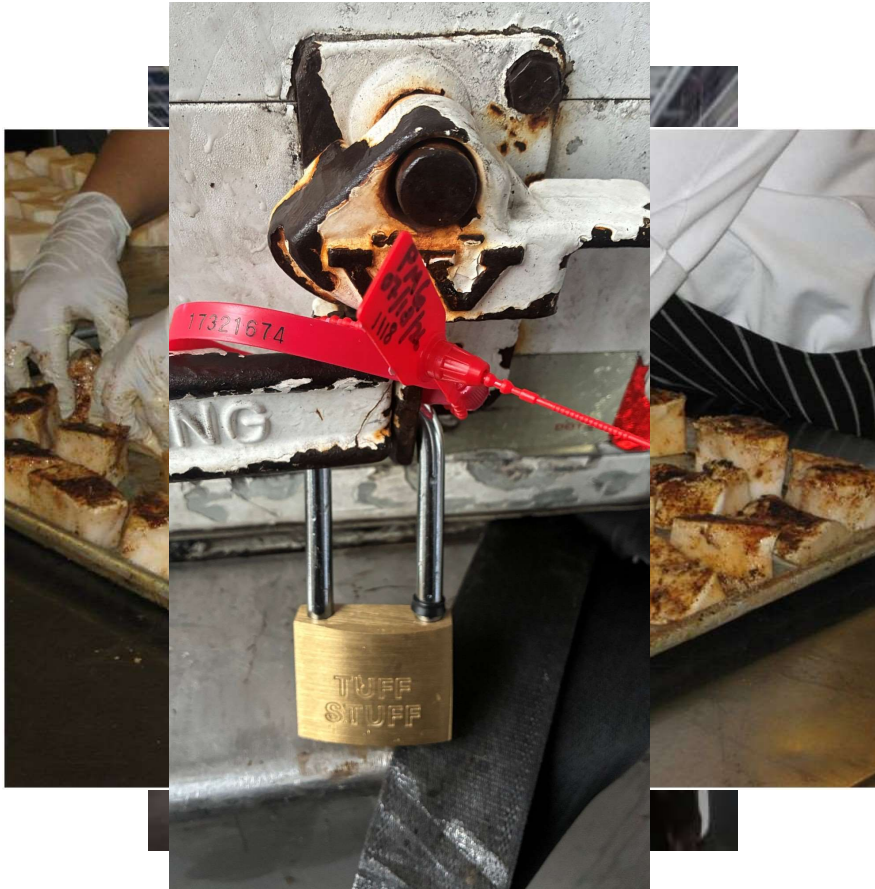


# FDA NYC/NJ Incident Management Team

- Worked in coordination with **NYC Dept of Health** and **NJ Dept of Health**
- Virtual IMT
  - FDA Emergency Response Coordinators
  - Other staff from OII
- Operations Section
  - 3 Retail Food Specialists (RFS) served as OSCs
  - 4 Field RFSs
  - 3 NYC Consumer Safety Officers (CSOs)
  - 2 NJ CSOs



# Event Activities



- Pre-Event Training
- Site Visits
- On-site Inspections
  - Fan Zones
  - Caterer
  - Stadium
- Food Defense

# Challenges

- Unknowns/lack of information
- Timeline
- Resources
- Caterer



# FIFA 2026 World Cup: A Collaborative Approach to Food Safety

*Dawn Kieseewetter, MPH, REHS  
Deputy Health Commissioner*



Department of  
**Public Health**  
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

## Our Mission

- The mission of the Department of Public Health is to protect and promote the health of all Philadelphians
- The mission of EHS is to maintain environments, prevent disease, and promote public health through education and regulation

# FIFA World Cup in Philly



June 11 – July 19<sup>th</sup>



6 games at Lincoln Financial Field



July 4<sup>th</sup> game



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## FIFA World Cup Activities in Philly

- Food Vendors at Lincoln Financial Field
- Philadelphia 250 Permit
- FIFA Fan Fest



# Lincoln Financial Field Stadium

- Proactive annual inspections
- Vendors outside
- Inspections were not conducted during the games



# Philadelphia 250 Permit

- Act 8 2026
- Liquor license extension – 2hrs
- Multiple City Departments involved
- Application review
- Compliance with both the City and the State was required
- Liberty Bell training



## FIFA Fan Fest Preparation

- Contact initiated in Nov 2025
- Application submission April 2026
- Monthly check-ins
- Vendor rotation



## FIFA Fan Fest Inspections

- Vendor compliance
- Weekly inspections
- Vector plan and onsite PCO



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# Strength in Collaboration



Communication between multiple City departments, outside stakeholders and vendors



Positive feedback



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THANK YOU  
HAVE A GREAT DAY!



# Feeding the World Cup: Food Safety & Food Security

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Jessica Swift, MPH

New Jersey Department of Health Public Health and Food Protection Program

September 17, 2026



# Preparation



Continued planning through Club Cup 2025



Credentials & Communication/Food Safety Food Defense Training >400



Explore food safety/security challenges within a large-scale event



Showcase successful efforts during the inspection process at Metlife aka NY/NJ Stadium

# CHALLENGES



Parking



Credentials



2 outside Caterers-no information-Two weeks before 1<sup>st</sup> Game-90% had new staff (Warning Letter Issued FDA-Listeria-Do & Co-48HRS)



Delaware North-Internal Food Staff for all other areas of stadium



10 Tents outside in Hospitality Area/Sushi/Del. N-Outside Fan Fest



In Europe gloves are not universally required when handling RTE food \*good hand hygiene is taught-Food Safety Consultant

## Challenges Cont.



Concerns over generators/water/food storage/food security-NJ DCA



Our visibility was questioned/FIFA required DOH upper mgmt. accompany our team-  
AND Required Uniforms



7/19-Final Match POTUS 7/14 late evening we needed to obtain Secret Service  
Clearance and obtain new access cards, FDA sealed trucks 7/18/26

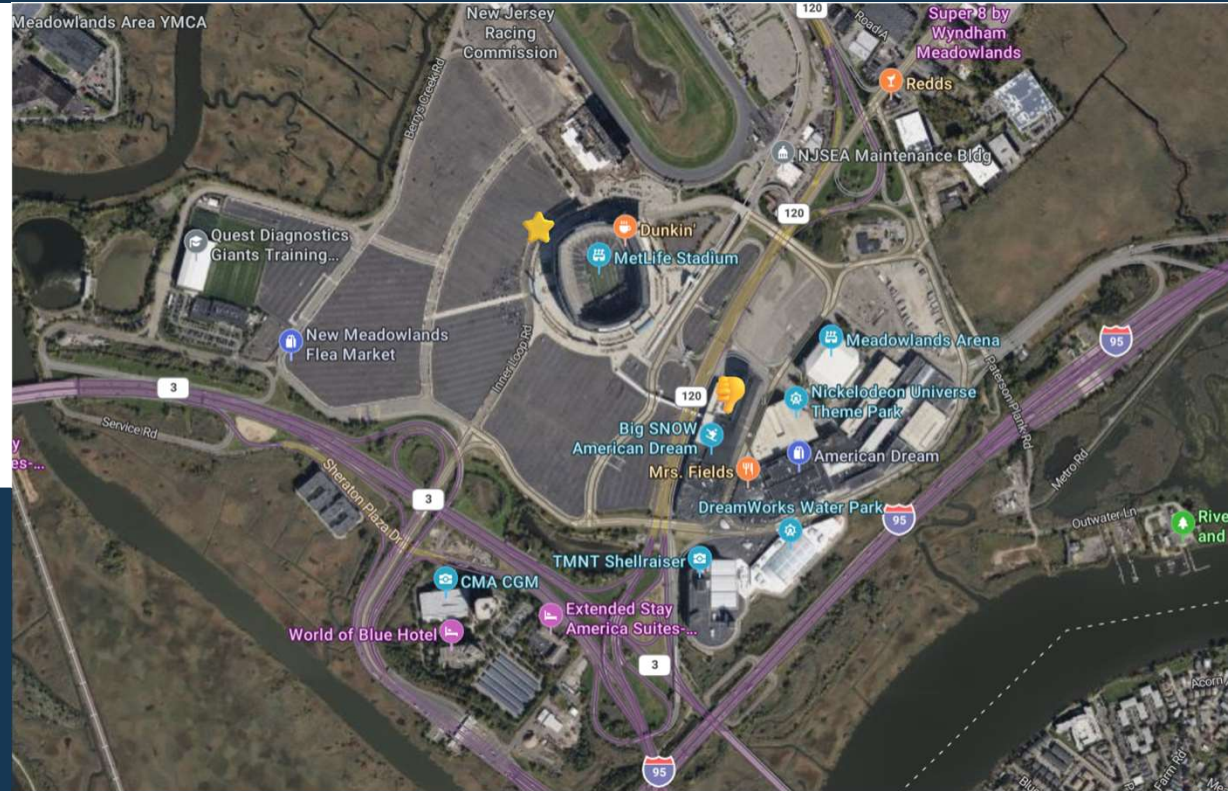


Final Match Day-Secret Service Assumed Control over Stadium



3K miles driven, Lots of walking, Torrential Downpours, Heat, 12+HR Days

# MetLife aka NY/NJ Stadium



# Food Safety: A Shared Responsibility



NJDOH and FDA worked jointly-Attended 6 of the 8 games/Preoperational inspections



Worked in Teams of 2/Split up due to credentialing and access to specific areas VIP/VVIP and Hospitality



FDA inspected outside caterer Do & Co in Jamaica NY observed food prep that would be served at the games



FDA also visited outside caterer Great Performances in NY-Potel et Chabot US LLC

# FIFA ID/Credential



# Inspection Team



# Hospitality Area



# VIP/VVIP





# SUCCESS

- **NO FOODBORNE OUTBREAK or FBI ILLNESSES WERE REPORTED**
- Despite an initially challenging start, strong working relationships were developed through open communication, professionalism, and continued collaboration.

# Contact Information:

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# Panel Discussion