

Mass Gathering Management EMS ECHO Session 27th May 2026

Guiding Questions

Before the mass gathering

Describing the Mass Gathering

1. What criteria do we use to classify an event as a "mass gathering," and how do variables like crowd density, duration, and venue type affect that classification?
 - Religious gatherings
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Risk Assessment

2. Walk us through a practical risk assessment framework for a mass gathering. What data inputs are non-negotiable before you sign off on an event plan? - **All**

Identifying Hazards

3. Given the risk of highly infectious diseases such as Ebola, Marburg, monkey pox in our setting spreading rapidly in dense crowds, what specific pre-event surveillance triggers or alert thresholds should planners establish before an event proceeds?

Precautionary Measures

4. What are the minimum precautionary measures staffing, medical posts, water and sanitation that should be non-negotiable in any mass gathering permit or approval process?
5. For a confirmed or suspected Ebola or Marburg outbreak in the event region, what does a credible mitigation plan look like, covering vaccination, screening at entry points, isolation protocols, and personal protective equipment for responders?

During the Mass gathering

Risk Assessment (Real-Time)

6. How do you maintain a live, dynamic risk picture during an event what tools, dashboards, or rapid reporting systems have proven effective on the ground?
7. How do you maintain a live, dynamic risk surveillance during an event, what tools, dashboards, or rapid reporting systems have proven effective on the ground?

Determining Impacts

8. How do you assess the impact of a mass gathering on surrounding health facilities and what surge agreements or mutual aid arrangements should be in place before day one?

Precautionary measures (operational)

9. If a suspected case of a viral haemorrhagic fever such as Ebola or Marburg is identified mid-event, what is the immediate containment protocol, and how do you prevent panic while isolating the individual and tracing contacts within a crowd of thousands?

Risk communication

10. What are the core principles of effective risk communication to the public during an active mass gathering emergency and how do you balance transparency with the need to avoid stampede or mass panic?

After the Mass Gathering

Determining impacts

11. How do you measure the true public health impact of a mass gathering after it ends what data do you collect, over what period, and from which sources?

Risk Communication (Debrief & Lessons)

12. What communication obligations exist after a mass gathering event to the public, to health authorities, to event organisers and who owns those messages?

Reviewer Sign-Off & Lessons Learned

13. What does a robust post-event after-action review look like, and how do you ensure lessons identified are actually translated into changes in policy or planning for the next event?

Wrap-up

In regards of health impact, which mass gathering in the country has the highest health impact and what are the systemic barriers to effectively manage it