

Managing Health Risks at Large Outdoor Music Festivals: Lessons from Glastonbury

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The Glastonbury Festival

- One of the major cultural events of the British summer calendar since the 1970's
- Located on a dairy farm in rural Somerset, England
- Hosts a wide & eclectic range of entertainment venues – music, theatre, circus, cinema
- Event site is open over six days from Wednesday to Monday
- 210,000 people are on site throughout
- Three receiving hospitals 30-55km away



The challenge

To provide optimal health care to those attending the event

To minimise the impact of the event on local health services, which have little spare capacity

The solution

- To treat casualties on site whenever it is safe to do so
- Medical services on site are provided by an independent medical charity
- Medical staff work as volunteers, ensuring a high level of affordable clinical expertise
- Well-established and effective joint working with NHS (statutory) services on and off site

Medical Services On Site

- Emergency Department
- General Practitioner and Nurse treatment services
- Emergency Dentistry
- X-ray & Ultrasound
- Psychiatry
- Physiotherapy & Podiatry
- 2 dispensing and retail Pharmacies
- 2 Minor Injuries Units & 1 First Aid Unit
- Medical teams at both main stages
- Site Ambulance service
- Paramedics and First Responders on foot, bicycles and in rapid response vehicles
- Medical Dispatch desk with clinical advisers in Event Control Centre

Casualties

Total presentations4364

Total referred to hospital54 (1.3%)



Top Ten Diagnoses

1	Abrasions, blisters, bruises	297
2	Joint problems	288
3	Drugs & alcohol	240
4	Soft tissue infections	173
5	Eye problems	168
6	Lacerations	151
7	ENT conditions	128
8	Muscle & tendon problems	122
9	Diarrhoea, vomiting	110
10	Burns	108



Public health response

- Preventing disease, promoting health and addressing health risks, across whole Glastonbury Festival community
- Multi-agency: UK Health Security Agency, local Public Health team, FMS including infection prevention and control, ambulance staff, environmental health



Emergency planning / preparedness

‘A major incident on standby’

Emergency response (command and control) structures in place with named individuals

Robust **major incident plans**

Plans are **exercised** before the event – e.g. mass casualty scenario, heat wave and norovirus

Includes **comms** plans

Co-location on site is a key facilitator – e.g. builds working relationships across agencies, facilitates information sharing

Surveillance



Regular **water testing** (mains supply and tanks)



Environmental Health officers inspect **food premises** regularly



Clinical notification of **infectious diseases** to UKHSA



Urgent testing at local laboratories



Health information cell



Infection prevention control 'walkarounds'



Reports from festival organisers (e.g. diarrhoea, suspected contaminated drug batches)



Pharmacy stocks



Post event surveillance – UKHSA case management system

Sexually Transmitted Infections

Get tested Get treated

- STIs can be spread by unprotected sex
- Some people **don't** get any symptoms with STIs so you may not know if you have one
- **Protect** yourself and your partner by using condoms and testing regularly
- **Test** at home or at a local sexual health clinic



Find sexual health services near you at:
nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-sexual-health-clinic

STI TESTING
IS FREE AND
CONFIDENTIAL



BE SAFE IN THE HEAT

- **DRINK LOTS OF WATER.** There are 800+ free drinking water taps around the site, or buy water from traders.
- **WEAR SUNSCREEN**, which is available free from info points and property lockups. And cover up.
- **SEEK SHADE** if you're too hot (trees and tented venues are good).
- **WEAR A HAT** or improvise one.
- **TAKE OFF YOUR BACKPACK**, it's insulating you and stopping you from losing heat.
- **IF YOU FEEL ILL OR FAINT** (or someone in your care does) seek help from stewards and security.
- **DON'T DRINK TOO MUCH ALCOHOL.** It will dehydrate you.
- **SUNGLASSES** will protect your eyes from the sun and dust.
- **IF YOU HAVE KIDS** keep checking they're not suffering from the heat.
- **AND LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER.**

Monkeypox: What you need to know

Monkeypox is a rare viral infection. Recently, we have seen a number of cases in the UK.

The infection can spread through close physical contact, like kissing, skin-to-skin, sex or sharing things like bedding and towels.

The signs and symptoms are:

- Recent unexpected/unusual spots, ulcers or blisters anywhere on your body
- Headaches
- Muscle aches
- Chills and exhaustion
- Swollen glands
- Fever

You can help stop the spread of Monkeypox:

- If you or any recent partners have developed unexpected or unusual spots, ulcers or blisters on any part of your body, including your face or genitals get in touch with your GP or local sexual health service as soon as possible.



Key learning

Multi-agency debrief identified 14 recommendations across 6 key themes:

- 1. Preparedness and Expectations**
- 2. Training**
- 3. Communication**
- 4. Resourcing**
- 5. Coordination and Communication**
- 6. Business Continuity**