

Comment on: “Mass Gatherings and Infectious Diseases Epidemiology and Surveillance”

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Dear Editor,

In an interesting study published in your journal, Tabatabaei and his colleague (1) focused on the necessity of implementing an infectious surveillance system and explored general recommendations based on published works (2-4), including mass gathering (MG) planning in the era of the limitation of communicable diseases surveillance and integrated surveillance network and real-time detection of health events among affected countries, i.e. the MG location and the countries from which travelers depart. Finally, the authors concluded that “public health authorities in collaboration with event organizers need to enhance their communicable diseases surveillance systems, according to the nature of the event, to enable early detection of potential public health threats” (1).

I would like to refer both authors of the above-mentioned article and interested readers to a study entitled “Public Health Surveillance and Hajj Pilgrimage as a Mass Gathering” (5), which aimed to highlight the rationale for implementing syndromic surveillance in the era of public health issues of Hajj pilgrimage as an MG.

Briefly, in order to detect related MG outbreaks, a syndromic surveillance system should communicate infor-

mation for early recognition and reporting by clinicians using prediagnostic data. Communicating such data plays an important role in the home country in the prevention of the spread of infections from travelers to their country. In conclusion, I would recommend that policymakers consider the potentials of the syndromic surveillance system in the timely detection of MG-related health events.

References

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