

# FIFA: New England Travel Advisory

The New England region expects 2-3 million visitors for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, hosted jointly by the US, Mexico and Canada. **For tourists, visitors and even lawful residents & US citizens, it could become a very different experience than anticipated, due to increasingly authoritarian trends in immigration enforcement.**

For these reasons, New England area immigrants' rights organizations have created **a toolkit and travel advisory** to provide information, travel tips, and resources that can prepare and assist visitors who are attending games, watch parties, community events, or engaging in recreation activity across the region.



[bit.ly/NETravelAdvisoryFIFA](https://bit.ly/NETravelAdvisoryFIFA)



## WHY THIS MATTERS FOR FIFA 2026 TRAVELERS

- Tourists are not exempt from this scrutiny, profiling, and heightened violence. The documented incidents include people from all backgrounds, including tourists, visitors, lawful US residents, and US citizens.
- Agreements that allow local law enforcement to perform immigration-related functions increase the chance that routine encounters — traffic stops, confusion at transit hubs, or even being in the wrong place at the wrong time — can lead to being dragged into the immigration enforcement dragnet.
- Reports of enforcement agents operating without clear identification or with masks make it difficult for travelers to know whether they are dealing with legitimate officers and heighten the risk of coercive or unlawful stops.
- FIFA events concentrate large numbers of international visitors in stadiums, transit hubs, hotels, and fan zones — areas where heightened enforcement activity can quickly affect big swaths of people.

## RECOMMENDATIONS — BEFORE TRAVEL



### Postpone non-essential travel

Consider postponing non-essential travel to jurisdictions where aggressive immigration enforcement has been reported. If travel is essential, plan carefully.

### Carry your I.D.

Carry valid government-issued photo identification at all times. Foreign nationals should carry passports AND copies of any relevant US visa documentation. US citizens should carry proof of citizenship (e.g., passport or birth certificate).



### Connect with your embassy

Register travel plans with your embassy or consulate where applicable; save emergency consular contact information and the US emergency number (911).

### Have Emergency Contacts

Secure emergency legal contacts in advance — organizations that provide rapid support for detained travelers, local civil-rights groups, or immigration legal services. Save those numbers offline.



### Brief traveling companions on how to respond to enforcement encounters:

- Remind each other to remain calm, ask if they are free to leave, and avoid resisting.
- Remember that travelers may politely decline to answer questions about immigration status while asserting their right to contact counsel and a consular representative (for non-U.S. nationals).
- If you have secure immigration status, you should carry **copies** of those documents so you can present them when asked, but not risk losing the originals.



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## RECOMMENDATIONS – DURING AN ENCOUNTER WITH ENFORCEMENT

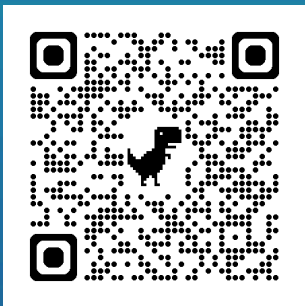
- 1** Remain calm and avoid physical resistance. Record the interaction if in a public space and if it's safe for you to do so.
- 2** Ask to see official identification. If in doubt about an officer's identity, state that you will cooperate after you are shown official credentials.
- 3** If detained: immediately request to contact your consulate, if you are a foreign national. For U.S. citizens, assert your citizenship and request access to documentation.
- 4** Document names, badge numbers, locations, and any witnesses as soon as it is safe to do so.
- 5** If you are unable to document anything yourself, ask others to do so by recording, taking pictures, or taking down information in writing.
- 6** If you see people around you recording, yell your name and nationality, and ask them to send the video to your consulate or embassy.

**NOTE:** If you are arrested on criminal charges by local or state police, you have the right to a government-appointed lawyer and a private phone call, and should ask for these immediately. If you are detained by ICE or Border Patrol, you have the right to hire a lawyer. The government does not provide one for you but they are supposed to provide a list of free or low-cost alternatives. You have the right to be visited by a lawyer in detention. You have the right to have your attorney with you at any hearing before an immigration judge.

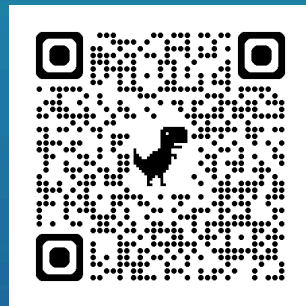
## ASSISTANCE AND RESOURCES

If detained in:

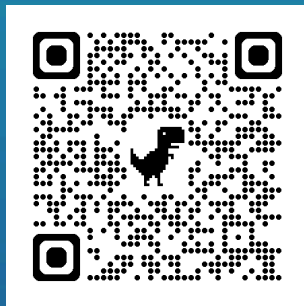
### Connecticut



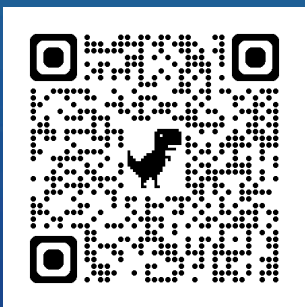
### Maine



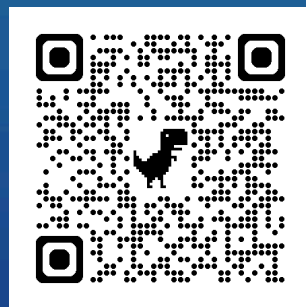
### Massachusetts



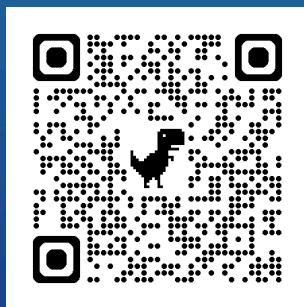
### New Hampshire



### Rhode Island



### Vermont



**SEE ICE? — SPREAD INFO, NOT PANIC**

<b>Size</b>	How many agents / officers?
<b>Activity</b>	What are they doing?
<b>Location</b>	Address or intersection/neighborhood
<b>Uniform</b>	Letters, patches visible on jackets, vests, vehicles
<b>Time</b>	When did you witness this?
<b>Equipment</b>	What do they have with them?

**RAPID RESPONSE HOTLINES**

- Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition: 207-544-9989
- Vermont Migrant Justice: 802-881-7229
- NH Solidarity Network: 978-219-7586
- New Haven Rapid Response: 854-666-4472
- Mt. Washington Valley Rapid Response Team: 603-726-6680
- LUCE Immigrant Justice Network of Massachusetts: 617-370-5023
- AMOR Rhode Island Defense Line: 401-675-1414

## DISCLAIMER AND NEXT STEPS

This advisory is based on documented reporting, litigation, and investigative accounts describing detentions, questioning, and removals affecting tourists, visitors, lawful residents, and citizens. It is intended to inform travelers of heightened risks and to recommend precautions for those planning to attend FIFA 2026 events in the United States. The situation is fluid – conditions and enforcement practices can vary by locality and over time.