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Guidance | June 2026

Traveling From Out of the Country to Massachusetts for the World Cup

Massachusetts is a welcoming place for foreign visitors

Massachusetts welcomes visitors from across the globe each and every day. We strive to protect everyone in the Commonwealth and we prohibit discrimination in places open to the public (like hotels, restaurants, stores, and stadiums) based on race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, deafness, blindness, or any physical or mental disability, or ancestry.

Governor Maura Healey has been clear that ICE should have no role in the safety and security operations of the World Cup in Massachusetts. Local, state and federal authorities are working together to make sure it is a safe experience for residents and visitors alike.

What should I do before I arrive?

Before leaving home, please check all documentation requirements for entry into the United States, as document requirements differ country by country. Remember that, to enter the United States, your passport must be valid for six months past your entry date and you must be able to show that you intend to return to your home country after the games. US government officials may need to see your return plane ticket or other proof of your planned return travel. You can learn more about the general requirements for entering the US for the games [here](#).

- A. If you are traveling with someone 17 years old or younger, you may need special documentation. You can learn more [here](#).
- B. If you have purchased FIFA World Cup 2026 tickets directly from FIFA, you can make a US visa appointment through [FIFA Priority Appointment Scheduling System \(PASS\)](#).

You also should know before arriving that Massachusetts has state and local laws that apply to everyone in the state, including visitors. It is illegal in Massachusetts to drink alcohol if you are under 21 years of age, drive while intoxicated, use illegal drugs¹, engage in physical violence, or

¹ Please note that marijuana, although legal for those over 21 in Massachusetts, is still illegal under federal law.

drive recklessly (e.g. driving too fast or drag racing). While you are in Massachusetts, you are subject to Massachusetts state and local laws, as well as national (federal) laws.

Violating local, state, or federal laws may put your visa status and future travel to the US at risk. It also may lead to immediate arrest and deportation by federal immigrant agents (e.g., US Immigration and Customs Enforcement). The best way to avoid this risk is by following the law.

What immigration or visitor documents should I carry while visiting Massachusetts?

Visitors should print out a paper copy of their “I-94” document and carry their passport with them to show valid, temporary status. If you are not comfortable carrying your original passport or other official documentation, you may consider leaving the originals with someone you trust in Massachusetts and carrying paper copies with you instead. Make sure any paper copies of your passport include the face page, the visa, the visa stamp and the biographical information. To see a sample of each document see Appendix A.

If you choose not to carry your original passport, make sure someone you trust can obtain the original passport quickly, in case of emergency.

To print out your I-94 document, navigate here [I-94/I-95 Website - Official Site for Travelers Visiting the United States](#)

What do I do if I am stopped at the border before entering the United States?

The United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) controls the border of the United States and may stop travelers at airports for many reasons, from routine immigration checks to targeted enforcement operations. CBP may stop you to determine if you are admissible to the United States and they may ask questions about your identity, citizenship, and purpose of your trip. CBP may prevent a visitor to the United States from entering the country and remove them to their home country if they are not satisfied that the person plans to return home after the visit or if they suspect fraud, among other reasons. Please be sure to have the appropriate documentation with you, including proof of your return travel, when you arrive into the United States.

You can learn more from Mass Legal Help’s webpage on immigrant rights and law enforcement (<https://www.masslegalhelp.org/immigration/know-your-rights/immigrant-rights-and-law-enforcement>). If you have any specific concerns, you also may wish to consult an attorney before leaving for your trip.

Who can I contact if I need help on immigration issues while in Massachusetts?

For general immigration resources, please visit:

- A. [Resources for Immigrants from the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office](#)
- B. [Massachusetts Legal Information's Immigrant Rights and Law Enforcement Guide](#)
- C. [Know Your Rights: An ICE Guide for Immigrants, Families and Communities](#)
- D. [Massachusetts Immigrant & Refugee Advocacy Coalition Immigration Helpline](#)

For help with urgent immigration-related legal resources:

- A. [AILA's Immigration Lawyer Search Database](#)
- B. [Statewide Immigration Referral List](#)

