

Is your business prepared to cope with Pandemic flu?



Although there currently are no active instances of Avian Flu in the Western Hemisphere, the Illinois Manufacturers' Association (IMA) wants you to know there are resources available for business planning purposes. Federal, state and local governments are taking time to plan for an outbreak, and you should too. Click on any of the resources listed below. If you know of other resources we haven't included, please let us know. Planning now can save time now and (potentially) lives later.

Flu terms defined

Seasonal (or common) flu is a respiratory illness that can be transmitted person to person. Most people have some immunity, and a vaccine is available.

Avian (or bird) flu is caused by influenza viruses that occur naturally among wild birds. The H5N1 variant is deadly to domestic fowl and can be transmitted from birds to humans. There is no human immunity and no vaccine is available.

Pandemic flu is virulent human flu that causes a global outbreak, or pandemic, of serious illness. Because there is little natural immunity, the disease can spread easily from person to person. Currently, there is no pandemic flu.

Avian flu



Avian influenza, first identified in Italy more than 100 years ago, affects birds. Migratory wildfowl, particularly wild ducks, are the natural reservoir. As with many animal diseases, humans can sporadically become infected under special conditions. Eighteen people were infected and six died during the outbreak of avian influenza (H5N1) in poultry in 1997. Since that time, the H5N1 virus has spread to several Asian countries affecting domestic chickens and ducks. The virus was recently found in migratory birds in Europe and further spread is likely. Furthermore, sporadic transmission of the H5N1 virus in humans has taken place in the affected countries. The major concern about avian influenza is that it could combine with human influenza viruses and develop into a new strain of human influenza that could spread person to person.

Pandemic flu

In the event of pandemic influenza, businesses will play a key role in protecting employees' health and safety as well as limiting the negative impact to the economy and society. Planning for pandemic influenza is critical. To assist you in your efforts, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have developed a checklist (<http://pandemicflu.gov/plan/businesschecklist.html>) for businesses. This checklist provides information on how to create and maintain a comprehensive emergency management program. It can be used by manufacturers, corporate offices, retailers, utilities or any organization where a sizable number of people work or gather. It identifies important, specific activities large businesses can do now to prepare, many of which will also help you in other emergencies. Further information can be found at www.pandemicflu.gov and www.cdc.gov/business.

STATE OF ILLINOIS:

<http://www.idph.state.il.us/avianflu.htm>
<http://www.idph.state.il.us/flu/pandemicfs.htm>

FEDERAL:

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/avianflu/>
<http://www.ready.gov/business/index.html>
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/index.htm>
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic/business.htm>
<http://www.avianflu.gov/>
<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/>

PANDEMIC FLU CHECKLISTS:

<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/checklists.html>
<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/businesschecklist.html>
<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/planguide/checklist.html>
<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/statelocalchecklist.html>

INTERNATIONAL:

World Health Organization:

<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/pandemic/en/>

Canada:

http://www.influenza.gc.ca/index_e.html

Mexico:

<http://www.dgepi.salud.gob.mx/pandemia/pandemia1.htm>

Private consultant:

<http://www.mercerhr.com/avianflu>