

Pandemic flu - are you ready?

Swine Flu - two small words that have put enormous pressure on governments and health organisations around the world in recent months, and on 11 June 2009 the World Health Organisation (WHO) formally confirmed that the world is at the start of an influenza pandemic.

“The world is now at the start of the 2009 influenza pandemic... countries should prepare to see cases, or the further spread of cases, in the near future”

Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General, WHO

This is not an indication that the virus has suddenly become more dangerous. However it is a clear signal to health officials and businesses around the world that they should ensure they are well prepared for the possibility, and consequences, of large numbers of people catching the virus.

Do you have contingency plans to manage the impact of perhaps up to half your staff, or indeed your suppliers' staff, being absent - either because they are ill, or because they are caring for an affected family member, or because you have had to invoke quarantine procedures? And if so, have you tested those plans recently?

Pandemic preparedness checklist

- ✓ Appoint a Pandemic Co-ordinator and Team including representatives from all key functions; establish and monitor a network of reliable, official pandemic information sources.
- ✓ Map and prioritise critical activities, including the people, resources and other dependencies required to maintain them (site by site).
- ✓ Scenario plan and consider the potential impacts of a pandemic on your critical activities; include your suppliers and other partners in this review.
- ✓ Develop a framework for the reallocation of people and resources, including home working
- ✓ Establish procedures to be invoked during a pandemic including criteria for sickness notification, leave of absence, home quarantine and returning to work; protocols to reduce social contact; and travel policies.
- ✓ Establish and test an Emergency Communication Plan.

The next step

Regester Larkin has been, and continue to be central in helping some leading organisations with their pandemic response and preparedness planning.

If you would like to know more about how we can help you with pandemic preparedness and business continuity planning, please call us on +44 (0)20 7029 3980 or email us at enquiries@regesterlarkin.com.



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