

WHAT IS A PANDEMIC?

Influenza pandemic is a global spread of disease caused by a novel influenza virus against which the human population has low or no immunity. Human influenza is a very common virus among humans. Its symptoms are well known. Influenza may be infectious for up to two days before the symptoms of fever and coughing begins. This means that people who seem well can actually pass on the virus to others. The prospect of an influenza pandemic is real. Recent experience and information provided by the world Health Organisation (WHO) has indicated that in the event of an influenza virus mutation, infections easily transfer from human to human initiating an influenza pandemic.

A pandemic Plan should include three response levels: Alert, Serious and Emergency. These response levels (based on WHO's original six staged approach) are the result of a risk assessment of an influenza pandemic and how it might affect a corporate community.

TRACKING

Make sure that you keep abreast of any developments especially during the winter (flu) season:

- Identify local government agencies that provide warning and best practices.
- Take note of current warning levels and accompanying advisory guidance.
- Monitor the WHO website for up to date information.

PLANNING

Conduct pre-planning so that you are able to respond quickly:

- Determine contacts for third party cleaning services.
- Identify and stock adequate supplies of sanitising products.
- Designate a holding area for suspect cases.
- Prepare basic procedures for preventative measures and dealing with probable cases.
- Consider providing annual flu vaccinations.

RESPONSE and MITIGATION

Make sure your plan addresses:

- Absence policies.
- Probable cases.
- Confirmed cases.
- Remote working.
- Workplace hygiene.
- Business travel.
- Post pandemic monitoring.

For further detail see contact information below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
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