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Safety *Update*

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUAL BUSINESSES
AND PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR A SAFER FUTURE.

"We all have a responsibility to ensure that we have a safe and healthy place of work, working together will achieve that goal."

Business Preparation and Preparedness for a Flu Pandemic

Thoughts from Dick Bush of MSD International, Guernsey

THE PANDEMIC HAS NOT GONE AWAY.....

The level of cases reduced since the peak of the first wave and now we are seeing an increase in the levels of people affected by the current swine influenza (H1N1). Exactly how H1N1 will develop is uncertain. We are now entering the second wave which in past pandemics has always been more virulent than the first.

One concern expressed by the World Health Organisation is that:

"Influenza viruses are the ultimate moving target. Their behaviour is notoriously unpredictable. The behaviour of pandemics is as unpredictable as the viruses that cause them. No one can say how the present situation will evolve."

"We must never forget that that the H5N1 avian influenza viruses is

now firmly established in poultry in several countries. No one can say how this avian virus will behave when pressured by large numbers of people infected with the new H1N1 virus."

On 23 October 2009, US President Barak Obama signed a declaration of a state of emergency as the disease becomes more prevalent than ever in the US and production delays undercutting the government's initial, optimistic estimates that as many as 120 million doses of the vaccine could be available by mid-October.

Health authorities say more than 1,000 people in the United States, including almost 100 **children**, have died from the AH1N1 strain of flu and 46 states have widespread flu activity. So far only 11 million doses of the vaccine have gone out to health departments, doctor's surgeries and other providers, accord-



About GOSHA

GOSHA is a voluntary, non-profit making organisation, set up in November 2004 to support businesses and other organisations in Guernsey .

Visit our website at: <http://www.gosha.org.gg> for more information on how we can help your business develop and maintain a successful health and safety management system.



GOSHA Safety Update

Working together for a safer Island



ing to the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention officials.

In the UK concern is being expressed at the lack of intensive care beds in the NHS and in particular in the lack of ventilators.

In Guernsey the level of cases is increasing rapidly among school children.

There is still a window of opportunity to prepare a pandemic plan. **The pandemic has not gone away; the time to act is now!**

10 STEPS YOUR BUSINESS CAN TAKE

1. Check that existing business continuity plans are applicable to a pandemic.
2. In particular, check to see that core business activities can be sustained over several weeks.
3. Plan accordingly for interruptions of essential services like sanitation, water, power and refreshments.
4. Review the critical functions and the individuals who perform them. The absence of these individuals could seriously impair business continuity.
5. Maintain a healthy work environment by ensuring adequate air circulation and providing guidance on how to stop the spread of germs at work.
6. Determine which outside activities are critical to maintaining operations and develop alternatives in case they cannot function normally.
7. Establish or expand policies and procedures that enable staff to work from home with appropriate security and network access to applications.
8. Expand online services options for Clients.
9. Tell staff about the threat of pandemic flu and the steps the organisation is taking to prepare for it.
10. Update sick leave and family and medical leave policies and communicate with staff about the importance of staying away from the workplace if they become ill. Concern about lost wages is the largest deterrent to self-quarantine.

“The WHO declaration of pandemic level 6 is a signal that businesses world wide must continue and indeed escalate vigilance in their pandemic planning efforts. This is not a time to be complacent, but rather an opportunity to anticipate.” Gisele Norris DrPh Aon Corporation

Remember:

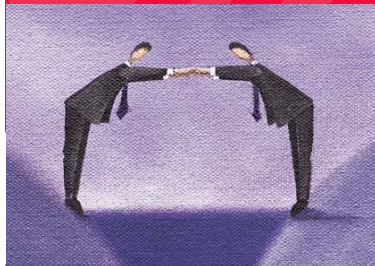
“The only thing more difficult than developing a contingency plan is having to explain why you didn’t.”

(Prepared by local business continuity specialist Richard Bush of MSD International Limited who has made a study of pandemics over the last four years – www.msdiinternational.com 01481 265999)

We hope you find the summary by Dick to be useful. Please also follow the guidance issued by the States of Guernsey in managing the current outbreak.

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Prepare your safety improvement plan



if you find that changes are needed, decide on your priorities and how they are going to be dealt with.

This plan might help you organise the work.

*IDENTIFY
the problem*

*EVALUATE
alternative solutions*

*SELECT
appropriate action*

*PLAN
how to tackle the job*

*PROGRAMME
the resources - people, time &
money*

*IMPLEMENT
the improvement*

*MONITOR
the results*

*REVIEW
its effectiveness*