

## **Flu Season Planning for Businesses with an Update on the Swine Flu Virus**

Since the World Health Organization's declaration of a pandemic, the new H1N1 virus (also known as swine flu virus) has continued to spread. The United States continues to report the largest number of novel H1N1 cases of any country worldwide, however, most people who have become ill have recovered without requiring medical treatment. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is continuing to watch the situation carefully. The CDC recommends that businesses:

- Evaluate all pandemic planning procedures and communications.
- Continue with your organization's normal vaccination programs against seasonal flu.

### **H1N1 Vaccine in Fall 2009**

The novel H1N1 vaccine is expected to be available in the fall. More specific dates cannot be provided at this time as vaccine availability depends on several factors including manufacturing time and time needed to conduct clinical trials. Clinical trials are necessary to confirm that novel H1N1 and seasonal vaccine will be safe and effective if given at the same time.

### **Seasonal Flu Fall 2009**

The seasonal flu vaccine is not expected to protect against the novel H1N1. The seasonal vaccine is expected to be available earlier than the H1N1 vaccine. The usual seasonal influenza viruses are still expected to cause illness this fall and winter. Individuals are encouraged to get their seasonal flu vaccine as soon as it is available.

### **Online Resources**

To stay up-to-date on the latest information on how businesses can prepare for potential swine flu outbreaks as well as seasonal flu planning please visit the following websites:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/business/>
- The World Health Organization: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/>
- Pandemic Flu Updates: <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/workplaceplanning/index.html>
- The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Pandemic Planning guide: [http://www.uschamber.com/issues/index/defense/pandemic\\_influenza.htm](http://www.uschamber.com/issues/index/defense/pandemic_influenza.htm)
- The Tennessee Department of Health: <http://health.state.tn.us/H1N1.htm>