



## Pandemic Influenza Concerns Become Reality

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It's one of those things that you likely convinced yourself couldn't happen in your lifetime. It's 2009 for goodness sake. Our science and technology is equipped to handle any contagious illness that comes our way. Right? The truth is that we have suddenly found ourselves facing a Phase 5 Pandemic Alert. The H1N1 virus, better known as the Swine Flu, is now in at least two countries and is threatening to cause even bigger outbreaks in the days and weeks ahead. Every news agency is currently providing people worldwide with up-to-date information. (what about companies we've already seen a couple examples of what our clients are doing, and my friend at Nissan said they are doing daily Swine Flu updates via email, etc.?) Typical symptoms, routes of transmission, hygiene tips and much more are being shown by practically every major station. In fact, so much information is being thrown around that panic can set in if great care is not taken.

What about your organization? Do your people understand what a pandemic is and how important it is to follow certain protocols? Panic is exactly what you don't need arising when facing threats such as the unique strain of influenza we are posed with now. Knowing that legitimate pandemic concerns were on the horizon, last year PureSafety developed a course that specifically addresses Pandemic Influenza. Our 38 minute course defines the differences between a pandemic and an epidemic, discusses the key features of monitoring pandemics, explains the National Strategy used to handle pandemic influenza and finally, it describes ways that businesses and individuals can reduce or slow the spread of influenza.

The role and responsibilities of a Safety Professional are broad. It goes beyond protecting workers from easily recognizable hazards such as a piece of machinery or a flammable liquid. They must equally involve themselves in educating people about unseen viruses that can cause significant illness and even death. Pandemics like the Swine Flu certainly take the large majority of Safety Professionals out of their comfort zone. Don't hesitate to educate yourself and your employees quickly and effectively. There are steps that you should be taking now to manage the present situation as well as prepare yourself for potential pandemics in the future.

Make sure that your employees know what signs to look for and the importance of reporting any of those conditions that may arise. Many companies are currently providing daily updates and reminders to all of their staff which reinforce the importance of using good hygiene techniques to prevent the spread of germs. When available, you should consider offering vaccinations to your employees when they become available. Those records can be easily managed by a platform such as our Occupational Health Manager (OHM) solution. OHM is the premier system used by employers to document and manage all employee healthcare needs.

And not to be outdone, our Occupational Health Manager (OHM) solution provides employers with a clear and concise way to manage and track all immunizations within your company.

In short, education is the key in scenarios such as this. Help your people understand the real areas of concern, eliminate potential panic, and put your employees in the best position possible... an informed one.

To learn more about any of PureSafety's training, safety, occupational health and medical management software solutions, including our Pandemic Influenza course, [click here for a free preview](#) or contact us Toll-Free at 888.202.3016.