



May 13, 2009

New guide helps employers plan ahead in case of a future pandemic influenza

Edmonton... Although the risk on most worksites is low, the Alberta government is proactively releasing *Best Practice Guideline for Workplace Health & Safety During Pandemic Influenza*. It provides information to workplaces on hazard assessment and control in preparation for and during pandemic influenza.

The document is intended to serve as a guideline to all workplaces. It provides information on legislated requirements, best practices and strategies in workplace health and safety and employment standards in the event of pandemic influenza.

Information includes:

- how pandemic influenza is different from seasonal influenza;
- guidelines to assess pandemic influenza exposure in the workplace;
- how to develop a workplace emergency response plan for pandemic influenza; and,
- direction for implementing workplace controls.

Alberta Health and Wellness, Alberta Employment and Immigration, Alberta Emergency Management Agency and other Alberta government departments continue to work together to ensure a coordinated response to any potential pandemic influenza. This is part of the government's ongoing emergency preparedness work.

Copies can be found online at www.employment.alberta.ca/pandemic or by calling toll-free 1-866-415-8690 (780-415-8690 in Edmonton and area).

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