



## Iowa Department of Public Health Advancing Health Through the Generations

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Thomas J. Vilsack  
Governor

Sally J. Pederson  
Lt. Governor

Mary Mincer Hansen, R.N., Ph.D.  
Director

Dear Iowa Business Council Members, Owners and Managers,

As members of Iowa's business community, a business owner or manager have you begun to contemplate how your company will manage the impact of an outbreak of Pandemic Influenza? The impact to your employees? Your services?

The Iowa Department of Public Health has developed the Iowa Pandemic Influenza Response Plan, an Annex to the State of Iowa Bio-Emergency Response Plan. This plan is specifically designed to ensure an effective response in the event of an influenza pandemic. The plan addresses the roles of the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Iowa's Public Health Laboratory the University Hygienic Laboratory (UHL), and other state agencies should an influenza pandemic occur.

In our planning efforts we have worked in concert with other state agencies and our local partners including public health, hospitals, emergency medical services, emergency management agencies and others. However, we cannot function independently of private business and industry to protect the health and critical infrastructure of Iowa. The businesses and employers of our state play key roles in protecting employees' health; safety and limiting the impact an influenza pandemic may have on the economy and society.

The impact of an influenza pandemic on the local economy and business could be potentially devastating. In Iowa 15-35% of Iowa's population may be affected. There is a potential for high levels of employee absenteeism as well as illness and death making these planning and preparedness efforts for the next influenza pandemic imperative. Every business, regardless of services provided, products manufactured or number of employees will benefit from pandemic influenza planning.

Therefore, for your use, we have created a "Pandemic Influenza Business Planning Kit". This kit provides a checklist of items for your consideration during your planning, fact sheets for employee education and a planning guide. This information and more can be found at <http://www.protectioniowahealth.org>. We highly recommend that you closely collaborate with your Local County Public Health Agency in your pandemic influenza planning; they are critical assets and excellent resources in your preparedness efforts.

These documents are provided for your use. Please utilize them to meet the planning needs of your specific business. If you have any questions related to this planning kit or the included documents do not hesitate to contact the Iowa Department of Public Health's Center for Disaster Operation and Response at 515-242-5206.

Sincerely,

Mary Mincer Hansen, R.N., PhD  
Director

Patricia Quinlisk, M.D.  
State Public Health Medical Director/Epidemiologist