

# Flu Season Awareness — Business Planning

### The Kidney Community and Flu Preparedness

ESRD Facilities and Network offices provide essential business functions in direct and indirect support of dialysis patients throughout the country. While Emergency Management plans provide best practices for all incident hazard types, there are specific preventative measures that facilities and Networks can take to ensure business can be sustained during the height of flu season and possible influenza pandemic outbreaks.

#### Seasonal Flu

Each flu season, according to the NIH, nearly 111 million workdays are lost due to the flu. That equals approximately \$7 billion per year in sick days and lost productivity. Through education and planning, you can help protect your employees from the seasonal flu.<sup>1</sup>

### Pandemic Flu

In a flu pandemic, employers play a key role in protecting employees' health and safety. Organizations can help limit any negative impact on the economy and society as well. Companies that provide critical infrastructure services, such as power and telecommunications, must also plan to continue operations in a crisis. As with any emergency situation, having a contingency plan is essential.<sup>1</sup>

## **ESRD Pandemic Preparedness Resources**

Planning for pandemic influenza is critical. In the event of pandemic influenza, ESRD facilities and Networks will play a key role in protecting employee and patient health and safety, as well as, limiting the negative impact to the economy and society. To assist you in your efforts, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention (CDC) have developed the following checklist and promotional items.

Make it Your Business to Fight the Flu:

www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/business/toolkit\_seasonal\_flu\_for\_businesses\_and\_employers.pdf Flu Business Checklist:

www.flu.gov/planning-preparedness/business/businesschecklist.pdf

1. www.flu.gov/planning-preparedness/business/







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