

Dear Chamber Member,

Currently Connecticut is one of only four states that is not experiencing the effects of a widespread outbreak of H1N1. Experts believe that a pandemic flu is inevitable – but just like with earthquakes they are unable to predict when it will occur. When it does occur, it could last many months and affect up to 30% or more of the population. This will greatly affect our business and the communities we serve.

***What is your company doing to prepare?***

During a flu pandemic our primary goals are to protect the health of our employees, reduce the spread of disease, maintain essential operations and services, and assist the communities we serve. To meet these goals the following preparedness steps have been taken:

- Pandemic influenza planning team formed
- Coordination with communities
- Development of a pandemic flu continuity plan
- Development of Employee training
- Seasonal flu shot clinic planned

***How can you prepare for pandemic flu?***

We hope that you will also take the time to learn more about pandemic flu, how to protect yourself from infectious diseases, and how to prepare yourself for a pandemic flu. Please:

- Learn about pandemic flu**  
For information go to: [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)
- Learn, practice, and teach healthy habits to your family**
  - Wash your hands often
  - Cough and sneeze into your sleeve
  - Get vaccinated
  - Stay home when sick
  - Clean and disinfect commonly used surfaces
  - Don't share personal items
- Create an emergency kit that includes items you will need for an infectious disease emergency like pandemic flu.**
  - See the [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) for guidance

***How can your employees help you to prepare?***

Enclosed is a questionnaire that may help you determine how staffing will be affected should a pandemic H1N1 flu outbreak occur. These questionnaires are anonymous and are only intended to assist us in preparing for staffing issues. The questions are ADA compliant.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about pandemic flu and to prepare.

Sincerely,

David D. Lowell  
Meriden Chamber Health and Wellness Council

## Questionnaire for Pandemic Influenza Preparation

**Directions:** Answer the following question by checking "yes" or "no." If your answer is "yes" to any of the factors, answer "yes" to the whole question without specifying the factor that applies.

**In the event of a pandemic, would you be unable to come to work because of any one of the following factors:**

- i. If schools are closed, you would need to stay home full or part-time to take care of a child;
- ii. You would need to stay home full or part-time to care for other dependents;
- iii. You or a member of your household fall into categories identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as being at high risk for serious health complications from a pandemic influenza virus (e.g., persons with compromised immune systems due to cancer, HIV, history of organ transplant, or other medical conditions; persons less than 65 with underlying chronic conditions; persons over 65); and/or,
- iv. If public transit is sporadic or unavailable, you would be unable to get to work.

**Employee Answer:** YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Thanks you for assisting us in preparing.**