



02 April 2009

Dear Colleague

PUBLICATION OF GUIDANCE FOR BUSINESSES – RISK ASSESSMENT IN THE OCCUPATIONAL SETTING

I am writing to inform you that *Guidance for Businesses - risk assessment in the occupational setting*, has been published on the UK Resilience section of the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/187638/flu_businesses_risk_guidance.pdf.

The Guidance explains how businesses can help reduce the spread of flu and provides information to allow businesses to assess the types of measures that may be used in their particular occupational setting.

The Health Protection Agency and the Department of Health have worked closely with the health care sector and certain non-healthcare services, such as the police and fire and rescue services, to develop pandemic influenza infection control guidance for occupational settings. This can be viewed at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience/pandemicflu/guidance/sector_specific.aspx

This simple and generic guidance has been developed to raise an awareness of measures that may be employed to reduce the spread of the flu virus at work. It aims to:

- Allow businesses to evaluate potential situations where there may be possible exposure to the influenza virus.
- Describe the steps that can be taken to moderate any potential exposure to the influenza virus in the workplace.
- Set out the measures that might be used to reduce the spread of the flu virus in the workplace.
- Provide a matrix that can be used to consider the best ways of reducing the spread of flu in a work environment.
- Put into context the relative value of personal protective equipment (PPE), including the wearing of facemasks, when compared to other environmental and organisational approaches.



Specific guidance for many other areas is also available on the UK Resilience pages of the Cabinet Office website.

We hope you find the Guidance of value in your planning for pan flu. Any enquiries should be directed in the first instance to Becky Kirby (Team Leader, Health Desk), Becky.Kirby@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk.

Finally, we would once again like to thank all those organisations and individuals who gave freely of their time and expertise to contribute to the development of this Guidance. We would not have been able to publish such a comprehensive package of advice and information without your valuable input.

Yours sincerely

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