

Pandemic and Your Business: Are You Ready?

It's not a matter of if, but when. For Alberta, here are the projected numbers:

- Between 500,000 and 1.3 million Albertans will become ill – our total population is 3.1 million. That's 17% to 43% of all Albertans affected
- 3,000 to 12,000 Albertans will be hospitalized – that's four times normal
- 1,000 to 3,000 Albertans will die – that's eight times normal
- With so many people ill at once, and the healthy ones caring for ill friends and family members, 30% or more of all workers will be absent from work for a period of one to three weeks

Potential impact on your business

Now that we have your attention, try these questions on for size:

- How will your business function if 30 to 50% of your workforce is unable to work?
- Workers may be scared to come to work because of the possibility of becoming infected. How will you deal with workers who refuse to come to work?
- How will you continue to operate your business if key staff members are absent?
- Are you prepared to suspend operations for a few weeks because there aren't enough workers or those present don't have the skills to safely perform the work?
- How will you get raw materials or deliver finished products if your transportation system is affected?

What's your emergency plan?

- What's your plan of action if the pandemic affects your business operations?
- What is the chain of command as more and more of your workers are unable or unwilling to come to work? Who's in charge?
- How will you keep operating? Are workers cross-trained to be able to take over one another's responsibilities?
- What are the critical parts of your business operation? Will you be able to operate them safely during a pandemic?
- To limit worker-to-worker contact, have you considered staggering shifts and allowing workers to work from home? You may need to be flexible and think out of the box.

Educate yourself and your workers

Questions and Answers
Relating to Work in Alberta

 www.hre.gov.ab.ca/documents/WHS/WHS-PUB_PE002.pdf

Detailed Business Checklist

 www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/businesschecklist.html
CDC Checklist

Preventing the Spread

 www.health.gov.ab.ca
Alberta Health and Wellness

Emergency Planning

 www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/ema_bus_continuity.htm
Municipal Affairs